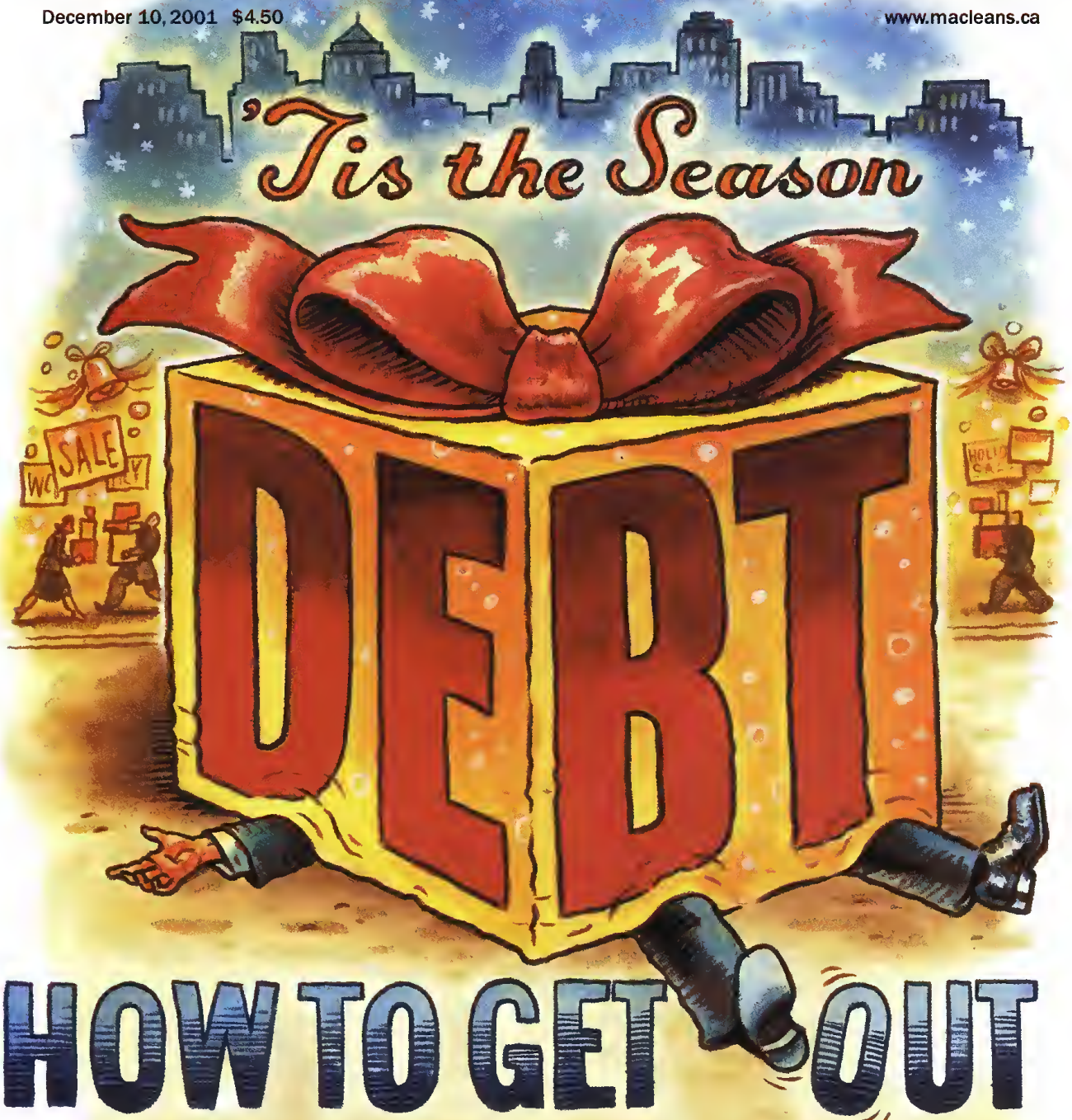
Terrorism's Canadian connection | Farewell to George | Holiday books

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This Week

December 10, 2001 Vol 114 No 50



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GETTING OUT OF DEBT

'Tis the season to use plastic—but watch out. Canadians are already borrowing way too much. Personal savings have plummeted and debt is at an all-time high. Natasha Kozlol knows—she owes $165,000, but her income is just $36,000

CANADA AND THE WORLD

14 Divided by fear Canadian Muslims are shaken by suspicions of terrorists in their midst.

20 Bloodbath The killing of Taliban prisoners sparks calls for an investigation.

22 Pity the children Thousands of Afghan kids are facing starvation and disease



55 Appreciation Allan Gregg recounts how his regard for George Harrison grew as "the quiet Beatle," who died last week, matured before our eyes into an enormously influential musician.

58 Pretty as a picture It's starting to look a lot like Christmas—bookstores are full of sumptuous gift volumes and a wide range of hockey books. From Renaissance paintings to Bobby Hull, *Maclean's* reviews some of the year's best



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Cover illustration by Ross MacDonald for Maclean's. Photos this page: top to bottom: Peter Bregg/Maclean's, Toby Fouhse for Maclean's, Oleg Nikishin/Getty Images, Bettmann/Corbis

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From the
Editor

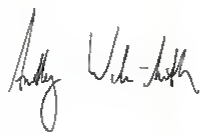
Free speech, the right to No

And now, the latest in the never-ending debate over what we have a right to see—and who has the right to make such decisions. In South Africa, a new Apartheid Museum opened last week. Visitors receive cards labelling them randomly by race: "whites" and "blacks" enter by separate doors and receive separate tours. Meanwhile, in Montreal, Normand Lester, a Radio-Canada television reporter, was suspended with pay by his bosses for writing *Le Livre noir du Canada anglais* (The Black Book of English Canada). It's a virulent, often factually inaccurate rendition of real and imagined abuses inflicted by English Canada upon French Quebecers. The controversy made the book an immediate best-seller—which in the small Quebec market simply means it's sold more than 5,000 copies. Still, that's more than Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* will sell in Canada in the near future—given that Heather Reisman, who runs the huge Chapters and Indigo book chains, has ordered all copies yanked from her stores.

It's tempting to draw a common lesson from all three cases—to the effect that if an item is really hateful enough, exposure to the general public is the best way to make that clear. In Johannesburg, some blacks who originally opposed the museum—because it re-creates the brutal and discriminatory conditions they once lived under—changed their minds after visiting precisely because it made them decide they now want that past remembered. And Lester's book has been praised chiefly by people who *haven't* read it, such as Quebec Premier Bernard Landry, who called it a "must-read" before having done so. On the other hand, Pierre Foglia, a famously acerbic columnist with Montreal's *La Presse*, bought the book, then read only part before giving up in annoyance, and wrote a column telling Lester he owes him $26.95—the cost of his purchase.

But after that, things get more complicated. Radio-Canada management has taken heat from both sovereigntists and federalists for the suspension of Lester; critics point out that he did what he did in his own free time, and didn't break any laws doing so. The conundrum for Rad-Can executives is that it's tough to establish a reputation for journalistic excellence if one of your on-air people is firmly established in the public mind-set as a biased hothead—and not a particularly skilled one at that. On the other hand, some radio and television outlets in the United States pay talk-show hosts millions of dollars for just such a skill set.

Then, there's the Reisman decision, where some critics confuse the distinction between the right to express views freely and the equally important right of others to not listen. If Reisman refused to stock a book simply on the grounds that it's pretentious, moronic, poorly written and deadly dull, odds are that no one would care—except, of course, that most of the self-help sections would then be empty. *Mein Kampf* has those literary failings—as well as being hate-filled and racist. Sure, it should be possible to learn how Nazism was spawned, and most of us agree that people should be able to express all sorts of views, even odious ones, without being sent to jail. But that doesn't mean you have to invite hatemongers into your house—or bookstore. If you *really* support free speech, then you also believe in the right of everyone to just say No when it suits them.



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The Mail

Getting their man

The RCMP has long organized itself into silos of expertise and power, small empires that routinely ignore or compete with one another. Many career Mounties have risen to the top jobs by building these very private hierarchies of success. Had Bob Stenhouse played that game, he, too, would have risen to senior executive rank ("Undercover Mountie," Cover, Nov. 26). Bob is no such Mountie. Indeed, he is exactly the kind of police officer that every force needs in the battle against organized crime—selfless and committed. His only mistake was in drawing unfavourable attention to the RCMP and its peer organizations. So, while the force gives itself a hernia trying to get rid of Stenhouse, the bikers laugh all the way to the bank.

Peter Evans, Delta, B.C.



The RCMP is incompetent. Drop the "R" from RCMP.

Ansbert Barrie, Kelowna, B.C.

If Stenhouse had been in private industry and had done something similar, he would have been gone in a New York minute. However, because of political correctness and because he is in the public service, I predict the following: Stenhouse will sue the Canadian taxpayer for $3 million for mental anguish. The case will be heard by a tribunal of ex-labour lawyers. The RCMP will apologize and Stenhouse will be awarded $4 million. Stay tuned.

Ian McAllister, Pointe Claire, Que.

If the police would just police themselves, there would be no need for the likes of RCMP officer Bob Stenhouse to experience so much frustration that he would go to the extent of ruining his career by witnessing to the force's inefficiency and poor management. No matter how much of an outcry against covet-ups that we, the public, make to law-enforcement agencies, the military or even the colleges of physicians and surgeons, some things don't change.

Joan Johnston, Toronto

In 1952, as a young mining engineer on the French island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific, I was introduced to a local resident. My associate stated that I was a Canadian. This man, from the other side of the world, brightened and stated with considerable pleasure, "Oh, you come from the country with the mounted police." A world away, our Mounties were famous. What has happened?

H. K. Fredrickson, Kemble, Ont.

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Rental housing crisis

Mary Janigan was right on the mark in "Build it: they're coming" (Nov. 26). However, two other critical points are perhaps the paramount reasons for such little development of private rental housing. Since 1972, the federal government has denied apartment owners the right to roll over capital gains on sales to the purchase of new properties—a right enjoyed by all other commercial investors. Most of our provincial governments, notably Ontario and British Columbia, have enacted ever more complex, intrusive and restrictive residential tenancy laws, resulting in investors avoiding rental properties. Even the title of Ontario's law, "The Tenant Protection Act," perpetuates the myth of feudal landlords and powerless tenants. The answer is not more social housing. Residential rental housing is not a passive business, nor is it a public utility. Until governments acknowledge these facts, Canada will continue to have an escalating rental housing crisis.

Al G. Kemp, CEO, Rental Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia, Victoria

Baseball's have-nots

As an ex-Montrealer, I, too, have fond memories of les Expos at Jarry Park and subsequently the cavernous Stade Olympique ("The Expos, from start to finish," From the Editor, Nov. 19). While Anthony Wilson-Smith is correct in his assessment of the Big Owe, the primary reason for the decline of the Expos is the very reason that ails all of baseball today: the haves versus the have-nots. Every spring, nearly two-thirds of all teams don't have a snowball's chance of making the playoffs. We all love to cheer for David, but in the world of pro sports, Goliath always wins. Put a winner on the field and Montrealers will be there, regardless of location. As for Wilson-Smith's select baseball team, he overlooked a strong anglo left-handed bat off the bench. Me. But don't worry. Therapy has paid off.

Michael Boire, Toronto

The Y's beginnings

The full title of the YMCA is the Young Men's Christian Association, a point that didn't appear in "An enduring mission" (History, Nov. 26).

A. G. Castell, Brandon, Man.

Airline competition

Once you strip away Phillip Phan's detailed knowledge of airline economics, his proposals are just ideology ("Let Air Canada go," Business, Nov. 26). Is it nationalism to want a safe, secure and assured airline infrastructure? In a big country, is it not common sense to make government responsible for the availability of air transport, which recently seems to have escaped some politicians and

HOW TWO PASSIONATE MEN, A TRUCK FULL OF DYNAMITE AND ONE MAGICAL VALLEY LED A FAMILY ESTATE TO WINERY OF THE YEAR.

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SYMPTOM	COLD	INFLUENZA
Fever	Rare	Usual high fever (102°F/39°C 104°F/40°C) sudden onset, lasts 3-4 days
Headache	Rare	Usual can be severe
General aches and pains	Sometimes, mild	Usual often severe
Fatigue and weakness	Sometimes, mild	Usual, severe, may last 2-3 weeks or more
Extreme fatigue	Unusual	Usual, early onset, can be severe
Runny stuffy nose	Common	Common
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Common
Chest discomfort, coughing	Sometimes, mild to moderate	Usual can become severe
Complications	Can lead to sinus congestion or earache	Can lead to pneumonia and respiratory failure, can worsen a current chronic condition can be life-threatening
PREVENTION	Frequent hand washing	Annual vaccination and frequent hand washing

Ontario

and flu symptoms are often
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economists? If international routes and private ownership are such guarantors of success, what happened to Pan American and Eastern, Swissair and Sabena? Without our own flag carrier, which philanthropic global airline is going to ensure that planes fly where and when we want them in Canada? We have to have effective air service in this country, so let's make a virtue out of necessity and make Air Canada as big and competitive as possible. Unburden Air Canada (and all other Canadian airlines) of infrastructure costs (e.g., security, airports, etc.), which should be supplied by the government. Cover the deficits of Canadian airlines flying desired but unprofitable routes, accept cabotage (right for foreign airlines to pick up passengers) for all countries allowing Canadian airlines to do the same thing; place consumer advocates on the boards of directors of all Canadian airline companies. Given its national base, encourage Air Canada to be a competitive global carrier. Make sure it has sufficient guaranteed capital to weather storms and update equipment. Can anyone give me one good reason why Air Canada cannot compete with Singapore Airlines?

John Trent, Chelsea, Que.

It makes no sense to bail out an inefficiently run business with taxpayers' dollars and then sit and watch while that business gouges the same taxpayers with overinflated ticket prices. Phan says it's time to allow foreign carriers free access to Canadian airspace. This makes sense since we can't expect to maintain sovereignty over our airlines and low prices at the same time. After all, does it really matter what the design is on the tail if the bottom line is lower ticket prices and better service?

Bill Merrett, Calgary

Canada is not alone is questioning whether it needs a national airline, but the single biggest obstacle to airline liberalization is that no country wants to go it alone. Opening traffic and cabotage rights unilaterally to foreign airlines would mean the demise of most Canadian carriers without a fighting chance. Even if foreign airlines were to employ some workers from defunct national carriers, job losses would still be significant. No government has the appetite for this kind of solution, certainly not in the middle of a recession. This is truly the crux of the matter: before making any rushed decisions, Canadians need to decide whether air transport is a public utility of national concern or a private-sector business. Most important, is Canada ready to become the first country to liberalize air transport without demanding the same from other countries? Free market in the airline industry is a good idea, but not without a level playing field.

Juan C. Triana, Montreal

Standing up to the WTO

"WTO on a roll" (The Week That Was, Nov. 26) has two sides and it is a shame that you omitted the other one. The most despicable act that took place at the World Trade Organization meeting in Qatar was when the U.S. and the European Union started exerting pressure on developing nations to the point of threatening to withhold debt forgiveness if these nations did not go along with what the U.S. and the EU wanted. Had it not been for India standing its ground and speaking for the developing world, the rich countries would have simply blackmailed their way to even greater ill-gotten riches. The Western world's and terrorism's morals lie in the same gutter.

Vera Gottlieb, North Shuswap, B.C.

On a roll

Peggy Hope-Simpson of Wolfville, N.S., has a long history as an activist and mentor in the peace, environment and health fields. As a nurse, Peggy has modelled community development particularly in her work with the Victorian Order of Nurses. She was recently featured on CBC TV's *Canada: A People's History* series for her involvement in the peace movement and the formation of the co-operative movement. Voice of Women in the 1960s. Peggy founded the Eastern Kings Community Health Association and has made numerous presentations to legislative committees on health issues. We are delighted to nominate her for the *Maclean's* Honour Roll.

Nancy McBay, Wolfville, N.S.

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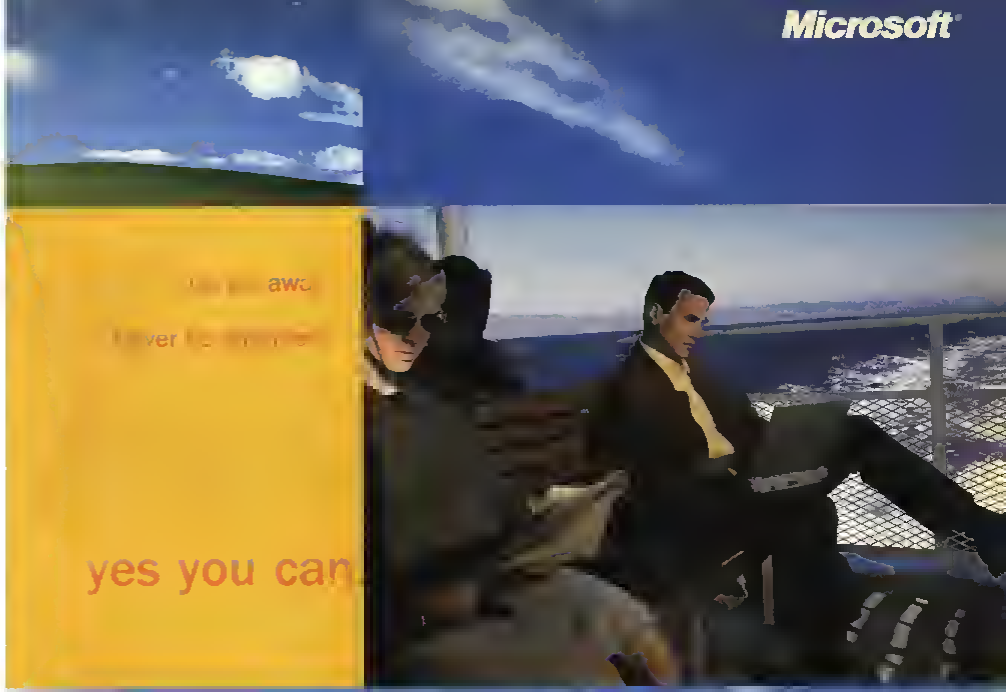
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Overture

Edited by Shanda Deziel *with Amy Cameron*

Over and Under Achievers

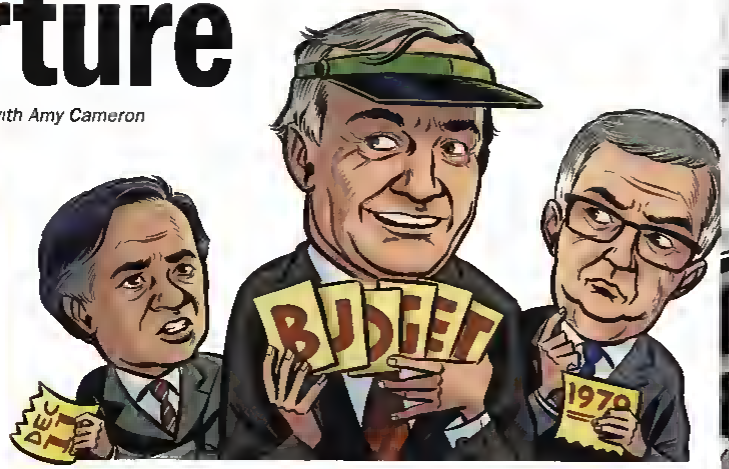
Swift passage

Jean Chrétien Cuts off debate to pass anti-terrorism bill, despite many MPs misgivings. Is PM overcompensating for early knocks against his tentative post-Sept. 11 reaction?

John Reid Information commissioner slams bill's secrecy powers in name of "national security." The former Liberal MP is proving fearlessly independent in watchdog role.

Anne McLellan Justice minister seemed open to compromise, but her bill's new powers remain troubling. Should have paid more attention to Reid's recommendations.

Andrew Telegdi Ontario MP was the only Liberal to vote against the anti-terrorism bill. Fled revolutionary Hungary as a boy with his family. Knows a little about abuse of state power.



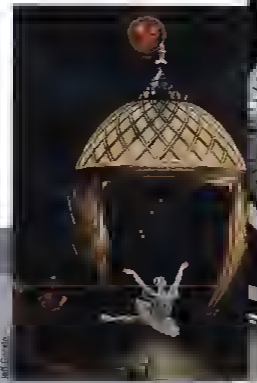
Any day's a good day for a budget

What a difference a day makes—at least when it's federal budget day. Buzz around Ottawa about the timing of Finance Minister **Paul Martin**'s *upcoming budget suggests at least three possible reasons he chose Dec. 10. The rationales range from political to practical to downright superstitious. Macleans offers this handy guide for those fascinated by Parliament Hill style numerology.*

1. Martin picked the 10th to deny a leadership rival the satisfaction of having usurped him. Before Martin got around to setting the date, Industry Minister **Brian Tobin** told a business audience it would be Dec. 11. That made sense, since the 11th is a Tuesday, the usual day for tabling a federal fiscal plan. Did Martin break with that tradition to put Tobin in his place?

2. Martin avoided Dec. 11 because that date lives in infamy. It was Dec. 11, 1979, that Tory finance minister **John Crosbie** tabled the ill-fated budget that ended **Joe Clark**'s short-lived minority government when Liberals voted it down. Is it possible Martin dodged the anniversary to ward off bad karma?

3. Martin chose Monday the 10th over Tuesday the 11th to get an extra day of budget debate before the House breaks for Christmas. That's the reason the finance minister himself gives. Does Martin's reverence for Parliament and respect for MPs' views guide his hand in such matters? Possibly, but we'll put our money on number 1 or 2.



Cracking the shell of a holiday classic

It's that time of year again. Even without snow or sleigh bells or a jolly elf in red, Canadians know the holiday season is in full throttle when The Nutcracker *comes to life. Many Canadian dance companies will mount the ballet this season. The National Ballet of Canada will perform the holiday classic in Ottawa from Nov. 30 to Dec. 8 and in Toronto from Dec. 16 to 30. Some facts about* The Nutcracker *and its National Ballet production:*

- *The Nutcracker* was inspired by the 1816 book *Nussknacker und Mausekonig* by German author E.T.A. Hoffmann.
- The world premiere was on Dec. 18, 1892, in St. Petersburg, Russia. The National Ballet of Canada premiere was held on Dec. 26, 1964, in Toronto.
- Fifteen 16.5-m tractor trailers are required to move the $2.6-million sets and costumes.
- There are 89 roles for adults and 95 for kids in every performance.
- There are 10 dressers backstage who help dancers get in and out of their costumes quickly. The fastest wardrobe change is 90 seconds between the first and second scenes.
- It will take 40 people more than 40 hours to set up and hang the sets.
- The eight-metre Fabergé egg—from which the Sugar Plum Fairy emerges in the second act—is packed into 10 boxes for transport.
- This holiday season, the female dancers will go through 456 pairs of pointe shoes at a cost of $27,360.
- The snow scene uses five kilograms of feathers as well as silver and white plastic snowflakes.
- The Sugar Plum Fairy's tutu was made from 15 m of tulle and took 200 hours of work. And it cost more than $4,000.

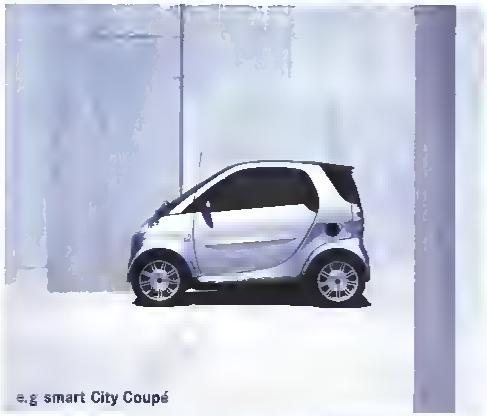




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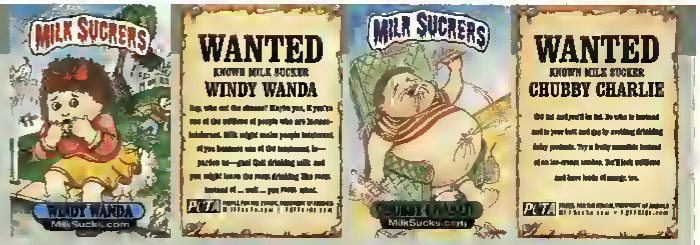


Image courtesy of the Ethical Treatment of Animals

American animal rights activists want to save Canadian children from the horrors of milk—a substance so noxious they claim it causes zits, obesity and gas, if it doesn't kill you first. Members of PETA—People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—bring their "Milk sucks" campaign to public sidewalks outside Vancouver elementary schools on Dec. 6, the start of a western blitz that ends in Winnipeg two weeks later.

The anti-dairy message delivered outside some Ontario and Quebec schools last month includes cartoon trading cards featuring Windy Wanda, Pimply Petty and other ailing milk drinkers. PETA has another beef: "Kids are just horrified to learn about the terrible animal abuse on dairy farms," says **Sean Gifford**, Norfolk, Va.-based co-ordinator for PETA's anti-meat, anti-dairy campaign. "Most kids never stop to think that cow's milk is meant for baby calves, not human beings."

Gifford calls it a "real tragedy" that Canadian dairy-marketing boards have "infiltrated" schools with information on milk's benefits. "When kids drink milk, they're setting themselves up for very serious health consequences: heart disease, cancer and stroke." Nonsense, says **Pat McCarthy-Briggs**, a dietitian with Manitoba Milk Producers. It's "not appropriate" to feed kids what she calls false information, especially without parental or school approval. "Milk's a tool box for building bones for children," says McCarthy-Briggs. "Its contribution to general health and well-being is well documented. It's science-based."

Gifford concedes PETA's anti-dairy message is "often unwelcome." It recently earned the wrath of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for urging U.S. college students to drink beer as a healthier alternative to dairy. PETA dropped the campaign—after milking the controversy of its publicity value.

Ken MacQueen

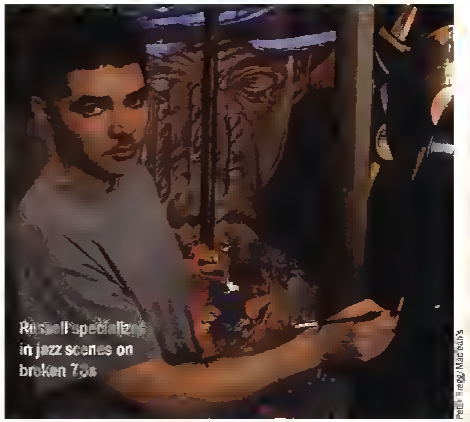
If you can't play it, paint it

Jay Russell paints on anything that isn't bolted down—vintage record players, television sets, the hood off of a Volkswagen Beetle, spaghetti. On an old home projector screen, he has painted a portrait of **Humphrey Bogart**. "It's portable art," says Russell, 38. "You can take it to your friend's house and set it up." But his specialty is painting blues and jazz scenes onto a collage of broken records—specifically old 78s.

When the Kingston, Ont., native brought his paintings to a jazz festival in Sacramento, Calif., one woman was not too pleased with his methods. "She snapped at me, 'Why can't you paint on canvas like everyone else? It's blasphemy what you are doing to these records.' I told her, 'No, I am immortalizing them, otherwise they'd be sitting in someone's garage or at the Goodwill.'"

Russell contends he has nothing great and astounding to say with his work; it's just his way of compensating for being a frustrated musician. Yet he was inspired to paint something more meaningful after Sept. 11. In the weeks following the tragedy, he collected newspaper and magazine clippings and pasted them into a collage on two column-shaped canvases. Over the top of the articles, he painted a portrait of a New York firefighter. The closer you get to the piece, the more you can see the faces of victims, suspects and politicians peering out from beneath the surface subject. "I hope one day," says Russell, "to give the painting to the city of New York."

Shanda Deziel



Russell specializes in jazz scenes on broken 78s

Photo: Gregg MacKenzie

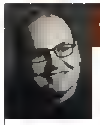


Overbites

"You know when girls swing around a pole, they need a certain circumference. So would you stuck your head right up close where you're going to get kicked?"
–Marsha Hiemstra, whose agency booked the stripper who is being sued for kicking a Coquitlam, B.C., man in the head during her performance.

"I felt a bit of a pinch but I didn't realize what Gallardo had done until I saw the video. The worst thing about it is the teasing I'm going to get from my teammates."
–Spanish soccer player **Jose Antonio Reyes** who was bitten by his teammate **Francisco Gallardo**—on the penis. Gallardo, who was celebrating Reyes's goal, will face a disciplinary committee this week.

"All the kids in town were talking about it."
–Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., mayor **John Rowswell** refers to three bronze statues of nude athletes that have been removed from the city's sports centre after being deemed unfit for children.



A golden anniversary



He was dressed in his best slacks and blazer with a crisp white shirt and tie. In his pocket were his passport and immigration papers. The sun was shining as Gaetano Rossi arrived at Halifax's Pier 21. This time, however, he had come by car from Toronto, not by boat from Naples. He was 68, not 18. He had money in his pocket and a full stomach. He was a grandfather and a Canadian citizen. This time, he spoke English and he would be the one explaining how things worked. It was July 28, 2001, and my uncle was in Halifax for the first time since he arrived at Pier 21 on July 28, 1951, aboard the Saturnia. With him was his brother—my father—who had followed him from Italy in 1958. My uncle also brought his son, daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter, grandson and me—all born in his adopted country. We were there to celebrate his golden anniversary in Canada.

From 1928 to 1971, Pier 21 processed more than one million immigrants. All of them had gone through some screening in the countries they left behind, but they still had to face a final immigration officer in Halifax. If their papers weren't in order or there were medical issues or they had insufficient money to take the train farther west, they could be sent home. They still had to be judged and feared they might be turned back. This time, for my uncle, there was no fear and it was he who would be judging Pier 21.

As we approached the immigration shed, we passed an old Canadian National rail car that was used to transport immigrants to the farms and mines farther west. "This must be the deluxe model that came after my time," said my uncle. "The one I rode in had wooden benches, not these stuffed leather seats." The pier buildings were all clean and recently painted. They were restored and opened as a museum in 1999. "The place was incredibly dark and dirty when I arrived," pointed out Gaetano. Next we saw a multimedia movie presentation featuring vignettes from Pier 21's history. One of these showed an Italian family who has just been granted landed immigrant status and is about to board the train. The family members had been frightened, but now they break into song. "These are Hollywood Italians," explained my uncle. "There wasn't a lot of singing or laughing. There was still lots to be scared of. I understand that the movie people want to show upbeat scenes, but this is a bit over the top."

Like many of those who arrived at Pier 21, he never intended to stay

The guides in the museum all buzzed around my uncle when we explained that he was celebrating his 50th anniversary. They wanted his opinion on the displays and to hear his stories. The resident historian was delighted to be able to scan into the computer Gaetano's passport and immigration papers. We also entered a train simulation that features cabins where you can listen to immigrant stories or even record one of your own. My father, a gifted storyteller, went into the booth to record a message. My uncle, however, was too overcome with the emotion of the day to record one himself.

Truth be told, he, like many of those who arrived at Pier 21, never intended to stay. He hoped to work for a few years, save a bit of money and go back to Italy. He was among a handful of men who were the first to come to Canada from the small village of Anzano di Puglia in southern Italy. After he passed that final judgment at Pier 21, he boarded a train that took 40 hours to deliver him to a farm in Ajax, Ont. Despite the hardships, he grew to love his new home and started a family and a life in Canada. After working as a farmhand, Gaetano moved to Totonto to do construction. In 1993, he retired as a Peek Freans' plant operator after 31 years. He was the one who encouraged and sponsored others to come to Canada, including my father. Today, there are over 350 people in the Greater Toronto Area of Anzanese descent who can thank my uncle, directly or indirectly, for their presence there. Countless others who know and love those 350 labourers, reachers, lawyers, pharmacists, entrepreneurs, students and exceptionally cute babies owe him a debt of gratitude.

We came to celebrate his 50th anniversary, but my uncle came in his best slacks and blazer to meet the spirit of the immigration official who judged him. He came to show that the official had judged wisely and that the young immigrant boy had done well and had contributed significantly to Canada. m

Rocco Rossi, of Toronto, is proud to be Canadian.

Illustration for Maclean's by Murray Kimber; photography by V. Tony Hauser

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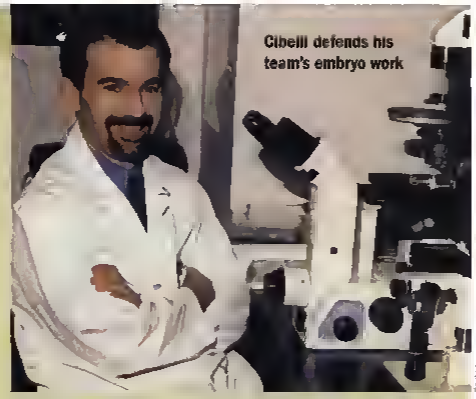
The Week That Was

One step closer to cloned human beings

Announcing they had cloned a human embryo for the first time, U.S. researchers claimed to have advanced the search for a source of undifferentiated stem cells—the building blocks for many body parts. Those cells, in theory, could one day treat a host of ailments, including diabetes, Alzheimer's and spinal injuries. But on close examination, the research, in addition to being ethically charged, was scientifically problematic.

The privately funded biotechnologists behind the research—Jose Cibelli, Robert Lanza and Michael West from Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Mass.—paid women up to $7,500 for their eggs. In one approach, the scientists used chemicals to induce six developing eggs to divide, but none reached the state that produces stem cells. In another, the team inserted a small cell from one woman's reproductive system into an ovum from another woman from which all genetic material had been removed. Then they coaxed that embryonic clone of the first woman to divide and grow—but barely. It died made up of just six cells, still invisible to the naked eye and well short of the 150 cells required to begin stem-cell extraction.

"There was a lot of hyperbole," says Dr. Alan Bernstein, president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canada's top health-research funder. But apart from the scientific and ethical issues it raises, he added, "this is a very inefficient procedure." The Vatican, the 43-nation Council of Europe and the White House all joined the chorus of criticism, declaring human cloning unacceptable. President George W. Bush called on the U.S. Senate to outlaw the Worcester team's work.



Cibelli defends his team's embryo work

Reuters

In Canada, Health Minister Allan Rock said the research was inconsistent with human dignity. A Commons health committee is reviewing draft legislation that would forbid the creation of embryos solely to harvest stem cells. Embryos left over from in vitro fertilization could, however, be used.

Advanced Cell Technology's Cibelli said he was surprised by the strong negative response. "These are baby steps," he said, "but they are steps in the right direction."

A plea for a pardon

He has been out of jail since 1969, quietly living under an assumed name. But for Steven Truscott, 57, who has always maintained he was not guilty of the June, 1959, rape and murder of 12-year-old Lynne Harper in Clinton, Ont., that is not enough. Last week, he formally asked federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan to review his conviction and clear his name. Truscott was just 14 when he was sentenced to death for the crimes. The Supreme Court of Canada upheld his conviction, but the federal cabinet commuted the death sentence and he spent 10 years in prison. His lawyers argue new evidence shows he was wrongly convicted through a combination of police tunnel vision, shoddy science and suppressed evidence. But in 1997, they found that most material with DNA had been destroyed so tests cannot be performed to definitively clear him, as happened in the cases of David Milgaard and Guy Paul Morin. The appeal to McLellan is his last avenue to be declared innocent, Truscott said. "I want my name back," he added. "I want closure."



Darcy Cheely/Brockville Recorded Times

Study harder

Ontario Conservatives wanted a tough new curriculum for high-school students and it appears the program they introduced in 1999 fits the bill—perhaps too well. According to an education ministry survey, nearly one-quarter of Grade 9 students failed or dropped out of required credits, compared with 15 per cent under the old system the year before. Even some of those who had called for a new curriculum joined critics who say the program itself may be at fault. But Education Minister Janet Ecker, who described the figures as incomplete and misleading, dismissed their concerns, saying students need to study harder. She added: "We knew it was going to require more work."

Kiddie porn raids

In the largest bust of online child pornography, police in 19 countries arrested 130 people. A British crime squad heading the operation that targeted the distribution and downloading of the kiddie porn alleges that more than 30 Web sites carrying pedophiliac images were accessed by 10,000 people in a two-week period. More than 100,000 new images were discovered during the raids. Although Interpol sent information to Canadian officials regarding two suspects, the RCMP says there is not enough evidence for arrests.

AIDS' deadly march

Each year the United Nations releases its latest statistics about the HIV/AIDS epidemic—and each year the numbers get bleaker. There are now 40 million people living with the virus, while five million became infected with HIV in 2001. It's now the fourth biggest killer in the world and the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa, where 28.1 million people are infected. Most worrisome, about one-third of those infected are aged 15 to 24 and often don't know they carry the virus.

Beetle epidemic

B.C. lumber officials called on Ottawa to provide $600 million to help stop the spread of the mountain pine beetle. The epidemic, which grew by 80 per cent this summer, covers an area of west central British Columbia that is 700 km long by 400 km wide—about four times the size of Vancouver Island. The fingernail-sized bugs have



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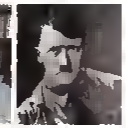
infested more than 72 million cubic metres of wood—17 per cent of B.C.'s commercially viable forest—or over $6 billion in lumber. The jobs of 25,000 workers in 11 forestry-reliant communities are also being threatened by the epidemic, which officials say is due to the recent string of mild winters in the province.

Furor over the Fuehrer

Calling it "hate literature," Heather Reisman, CEO of Indigo Books & Music Inc., banned Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* from nearly 300 bookstores across Canada. *Mein Kampf*, German for "my struggle," was published in two volumes in 1925 and 1927 before Hitler's Nazi party took power in Germany in 1933. While some praised Reisman's decision, others were critical. The executive director of PEN Canada, Louis Gentile, calls the book "a very useful learning tool about how hatred is begun and promoted."



Peter Bregg/Maclean's



Bags go boom

Federal Transport Minister David Collenette urged all provinces to recall recycled air bags after Quebec issued an injunction against a company that refurbished the safety devices. Provincial auto-insurance board investigators found the air bags contained gunpowder packed into homemade metal cartridges which, when the bags deployed, could send metal shards exploding 15 m, causing serious injuries to the head and chest. The Ste Foy, Que.-based company has sold nearly 10,000 replacement air bags across Canada.

Nepal's bloody new uprising



Uy Mangay/AP

Communist rebels in Nepal bombed and badly damaged a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Kathmandu. There were no casualties and soldiers foiled their later attempts to blow up a communications tower and stage a hostage-taking outside the capital. Still, more than 200 rebels, soldiers and policemen have died in clashes since the Maoists broke a four month ceasefire on Nov. 23 after peace talks stalled. The rebels have been fighting since 1996 to abolish Nepal's constitutional monarchy and democratically elected government and to replace it with a socialist republic.

The Enron debacle

The financial world braced for the biggest corporate collapse in U.S. history as energy giant Enron Corp. headed for bankruptcy protection. The seventh-largest U.S. company, which in September claimed assets of $61.8 billion (U.S.), owes at least $17 billion. Sorting out its complex and mysterious finances...



Steve Dickerson/Houston Chronicle/AP

...built quickly since the mid-1990s on massive energy trading, will take years, and could have huge repercussions on energy prices as well as on other companies. Its major known Canadian creditor is the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, which said Enron owes it $215 million (U.S.).

'One for the road' is still a problem

Canadians acknowledge they probably drove drunk more than five million times last year, according to a survey from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, a not-for-profit road safety organization. While that's a 60-per-cent decrease from 1998, the report notes the rate of decline in drunk-driver fatalities has slowed since the 1980s, when anti drinking-and-driving campaigns were first mounted. The reason? The message largely got through to social drinkers, but not to heavy drinkers. Other findings:

- Just five per cent of drivers accounted for 67 per cent of the impaired driving trips.
- Ontario drivers are least likely to report driving after drinking, motorists in British Columbia and the Prairie provinces are most likely.
- Approximately one in five drivers between the ages of 25 and 49 reports driving after drinking.
- In 1999, 906 people were killed in road crashes involving an impaired driver, while about 3,500 drivers were involved in alcohol-related serious injury accidents.

Passages

Retiring: Trina McQueen, president and chief operating officer of CTV Inc., has announced she will step down after 37 years in the business. Though she will stay on for at least six months as deputy chair of CTV Inc., McQueen says she is "ready for a little less excitement." Born in Belleville, Ont., McQueen began her career in journalism in 1965 as a CBC reporter and W Five host. After 25 years, she left an executive position at CBC to help launch CTV's Discovery Channel in 1999. She became an executive vice-president at CTV and was named president and COO earlier this year.



Phil Snel/Maclean's

Appointed: Charles Dalfen, a Toronto-based lawyer, will be the new chairman of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Although the appointment was made by the Prime Minister, there is speculation Dalfen, 58, pushed for an arm's-length relationship with the federal government. Dalfen, who served as CRTC vice-chairman from 1976 to 1980, is looking to boost Canadian content on English-language television.

Died: In 1963, figure skater **Donald McPherson**, at age 18, was the first man to win the Canadian, North American and world senior men's championships in one year. To this day, the Stratford, Ont. native remains the youngest male world champion. McPherson, 56, died at his home in Munich of complications due to diabetes.

Leaving: Jason Moscovitz, the CBC's chief political correspondent, announced he is quitting journalism after 27 years. Moscovitz, 50, will become vice-president of the Business Development Bank of Canada in Montreal.

DIVIDED BY FEAR

CSIS agents and terrorists leave Muslims shaken

BY TOM FENNELL

Their eyes peer from grainy black-and-white passport photos. Mysterious men from the Middle East, they have been arrested and accused of terrorism—suspected Canadian operatives in Osama bin Laden's war against the infidel. Easily blending into Muslim communities across the country, they worked as clerks, woodworkers, shop owners. So well-hidden were their violent intentions that they were even allowed to operate privately run Muslim schools.

The revelation that such men bowed in prayer beside them is yet another blow to Canadian Muslims already living with uncertainty and fear after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. Tarred with the same brush as the terrorists, they have faced increasing bigotry: the Toronto-based Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association has recorded more than 80 incidents of Muslims across Canada being either verbally or physically assaulted. Muslims, says association general counsel Faisal Kutty, are living in an atmosphere of almost McCarthy-era mistrust. "We are Canadian and want these terrorists caught," Kutty says. "But there is a sense of what do we have to do to prove ourselves."

Some have elected to lie low. Afraid to draw attention to themselves—fearing they'll end up on a government watch list—many Muslims have become reluctant to give to Islamic charities or visit relatives in the Middle East. Those fears may be justified: authorities have certainly stepped up their surveillance. "Sermons at mosques are being taped and many homes are wiretapped," says Canadian Islamic Congress national president Mohamed Elmasry. He adds that, with a diverse population of more than 600,000 spread across dozens of nationalities, Canada's Muslims are being unfairly "targeted for activities they are not responsible for." As for alleged terrorists living in Canada, Elmasry says, "We would have no clue."

Others, though, acknowledge that Canada's Muslim community has probably harboured suspected terrorists. And they mistrust a small but growing element in their midst. Money, from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, they say, channelled into Canada through charitable organizations to help finance the operation of mosques and private schools, comes with strings attached. Instead of being used to promote a benevolent view of Islam, critics say, the funds require Muslim religious leaders, known as imams, and schools to preach and teach the puritanical Wahabbi brand of Islam—the same strain that helped breed Osama bin Laden. Carrying a stern anti-Western bias, Wahabbi dominates mosques in Saudi Arabia and is increasing elsewhere. It is also spilling into Canada, says Amila Buturovic, a professor of Islamic studies at Toronto's York University. "It is spreading," says Buturovic, "primarily because of the tremendous Saudi financial involvement in mosques across North America."

As far back as 1992, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, a spiritual leader for many radical Muslims tied to bin Laden, was seen preaching at mosques in Ottawa. And in the Arab-Muslim community, numbering about 200,000 people, the faithful know that Canadian Security Intelligence Service agents have come calling at their mosques searching for bin Laden's men. Leaving behind only their first names, agents have interrogated spiritual leaders in Montreal and Toronto, giving them the names of suspected terrorists CSIS believes may be hiding in their congregations. Over the past two years, authorities have arrested more than 15 men they believe have links to bin Laden.

For some Canadian Muslims, none of

The community faces an atmosphere of mistrust

Ken Faught/Kitchener Bu

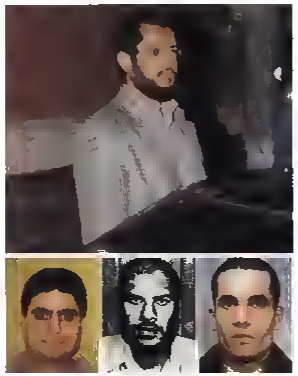
this comes as a surprise. "Bin Laden's men are probably here," says Mike Hijazi, as he counts out a customer's change in his tiny restaurant in Little Beirut, a stretch of strip malls in northeast Toronto that is heavily populated by Arab-Canadians. Up the street at his bakery, Daniel Tchakertian claims terrorists have infiltrated Canada as refugees. "They've been brainwashed into thinking they can get to heaven by killing someone, but they put a mask on and say the right things to get into the country," says Tchakertian. "Once they are here, the mask comes off and their anti-American feelings are exposed."

Over the past few years, CSIS agents have seemed particularly interested in the Salaheddin Islamic Centre, a blue-coloured mosque located on the edge of Little Beirut in a sprawling, flat-roofed building that once housed a lumber outlet. In 1999, CSIS agents twice visited the mosque's president and imam, Aly Hindy, an Arab-Canadian civil engineer. During one of those visits, according to court documents, an agent named Michel told Hindy that elements "connected to terrorism" were attending the mosque. Michel gave Hindy the names of a number of suspects, telling him to "watch out for these people." One of them was Mahmoud Jaballah, an Egyptian-born teacher who entered Canada in 1996 as a refugee on a bogus Saudi passport.

The RCMP arrested Jaballah in late 1999 as a security threat, claiming he belonged to the terrorist group Egyptian Islamic Jihad, which has been merged into bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. Jaballah was released seven months later, and re-arrested in August, 2001. He remains in prison in Toronto, pending a trial in Federal Court that could result in his deportation to Egypt. Ongoing testimony in Jaballah's case provides a rare glimpse into what CSIS claims is the bin Laden underworld in Canada. Linked by their common religious faith, the suspects worked together and visited each other in jail (when they were arrested, authorities found the phone numbers of other suspected terrorists in their possession).

In the case of Jaballah, Egyptian authorities detained him seven times before he finally fled to Saudi Arabia with his wife and three children in 1991. Once there, he contacted the Saudi-based Islamic Relief Organization, a charity doing relief work in Muslim communities around the world. He was given a job teaching at an orphanage operated by the group in Pakistan. Western intelligence officials suspect Islamic Relief of being a front organization funnelling money to and from bin Laden, the agency denies the allegation.

When the Egyptian government tried to deport Jaballah back to Cairo, he fled to Yemen and then Azerbaijan. Finally, in 1996, he came to Canada and moved with his family, now numbering six children, into a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto. In July, he co-founded the Um Al Qura Islamic elementary school on the edge of Little Beirut.



Al-Marabh (left), Jaballah, Ressam, Shehab after the RCMP raid (top)

Following Jaballah's arrest in 1999, Hindy circulated a petition signed by members of the Salaheddin Centre, expressing their support for the suspected terrorist. During immigration proceedings in Toronto last year, Hindy was asked why he collected the signatures. "We want Jaballah to be here with us," replied Hindy. "We don't want him to go back to suffer. He was very peaceful and was trying to establish his life here with his children and his wife." Hindy, who complains that CSIS is persecuting him and his congregation, says that since Jaballah's initial release, he has had little to do with him. In fact, relations clearly soured. Jaballah's school competed for students with the school run by Hindy's mosque.

Perhaps Hindy is right about Jaballah's peaceful intentions. But CSIS maintains Jaballah has been connected to other alleged members of bin Laden's network in Canada. One of those was Kuwaiti-born Nabil al-Marabh, now a key suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. A powerful man, carrying almost 200 lb. on his five-foot, seven-inch frame, he entered Canada from Boston in 1994 and applied for refugee status. When his claim was rejected in 1995 he moved back to Boston, where he drove a cab. On May 30, 2000, he came to the attention of U.S. authorities after he stabbed his roommate.

Al-Marabh was given a six-month suspended sentence but fled to Toronto. On June 27, he was arrested after he was caught trying to re-enter the United States at Buffalo, N.Y., hiding in the back of a truck. He was returned to Canada to face trial on immigration-related charges but was released when his uncle in Toronto, Ahmad Shehab, put up $7,500 bail. Al-Marabh then went to work at his uncle's downtown copy shop, but subsequently re-entered the United States. He did not surface again until his arrest near Chicago on Sept. 19. Al-Marabh is now being held in New York City, where he remains on the U.S. list of "suspects, potential associates of the suspects and potential witnesses" to the events of Sept. 11. (On Sept. 27, the RCMP raided Shehab's shop looking for evidence that immigration papers, including visas, may have been forged there. Shehab refuses to comment on any connection between himself and Jaballah. He did, however, fill in as acting principal at the Um Al Qura school after Jaballah's arrest.)

Other members of the suspected terrorist underground in Canada were also known to al-Marabh. While in jail, he was visited by Hassan Almrei, a 27-year-old Syrian refugee who travelled to Canada in January, 1999, on a false United Arab Emirates passport. Arrested by the RCMP on Oct. 20, he is accused of being a member of bin Laden's network and is being held as a threat to national security. As well, Mohamed Zeki Mahjoub, another close associate of Jaballah's, is still being held in Toronto. An Egyptian refugee who arrived in 1995, he lived and worked as a carpenter near Little Beirut and married a Canadian at a wedding arranged through a Toronto mosque. He was arrested in June, 2000, as he got off a streetcar in downtown Toronto, and was also detained as a national security risk.

Did some mosques unwittingly play

From top, left to right: Dave Thomas/SunMedia Corp., Boston Police/AP/Toronto Sun, AP

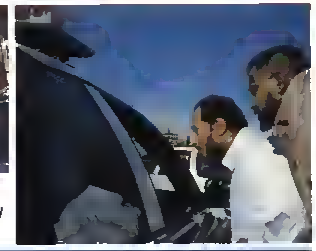
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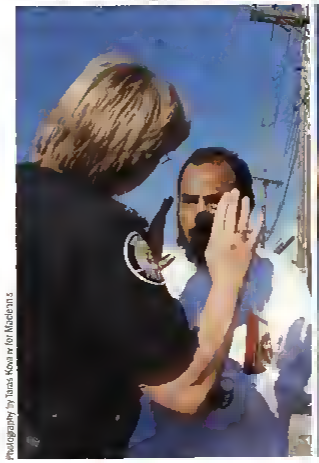






The faithful arrive for prayers at the Salaheddin Centre amid beefed-up security over fears of reprisals by non-Muslims







Photography by Tara Kovic for Maclean's

host to Jabalah and other alleged members of the bin Laden underworld? David Harris, former chief of strategic planning for CSIS, says mosques could provide cover for suspected terrorists without their congregations ever knowing about it. But Harris also notes evidence clearly indicates that alleged Algerian terrorists connected to bin Laden attended Montreal's El-Salem mosque and were open about their allegiances.

One of the Montreal terrorists, Ahmed Ressam, 34, who arrived in Canada in 1994, was arrested in December, 1999, trying to enter Washington state on a car ferry from Victoria with a trunkload of explosives intended for a New Year's Eve attack on the airport in Los Angeles. Three other members of the Montreal cell, part of the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, were also caught; one admitted he attended bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan. Court documents released last week also showed that Ressam and his associates discussed planting a bomb in the heart of the Hasidic Jewish community in Montreal. Ressam, who faces 130 years in prison on U.S. charges, will be sentenced on Feb. 14 in Los Angeles.

Members of a terrorist underground might find spiritual comfort in mosques that adhere to Wahabbism, Islamic professor Buturovic says. "There are different degrees of Wahabbism," she notes. "But bin Laden does come out of that same ideological underpinning. He is the most extreme version of it." And, she adds, "there is a level of sympathy" for bin Laden's men at some mosques.

But how widespread is Wahabbism in Canada? Elmasry, for one, says it's extremely difficult to quantify because the Canadian Muslim community is so diverse. Kutty estimates that perhaps 10 per cent of Canada's Muslims follow Wahabbi teachings. But in the nervous post-Sept. 11 climate, many followers will no longer admit to being adherents. Rigid and intolerant of other religions and even other forms of Islam, Wahabbism gives its followers a narrow—some say distorted—view of the world. Wahabbi textbooks commonly used in Saudi Arabian schools, for example, warn of the dangers of having Christian and Jewish friends. "It is compulsory," suggests one of the textbooks, "for Muslims to be loyal to each other and to consider the infidels their enemy."

That message, now dominating the Saudi curriculum, is spread through mosque sermons, television shows and the Internet. And one leading member of Toronto's Muslim community—fearing persecution if he is identified—says that when Jabalah was the principal of Um Al Qura, he was "certainly" preaching and teaching a version of Wahabbi. "Children cannot even listen to music at the school," he said. "They are told not to clap. This is extreme."

At Um Al Qura, colourful paper maple leaves are glued to the windows and a collection of small paper towers, representing the spires of mosques, rest on the



Shocked by the terrorist attacks, Muslims in Toronto prayed for the victims

windowsills. A teacher at the school, Ahmad Ally, her face covered completely except for her eyes, opens the school's front door just a crack. Before talking, she shoos four young girls, their heads covered in white scarves, back to their classroom.

Ally is from Saudi Arabia and doesn't speak English well enough to explain the school's curriculum or what Jaballah was teaching. A letter from the province of Ontario, dated Oct. 16 and posted in the window, declares that Um Al Qura has met all the requirements of a private school. As parents pick up their children, one Somali woman defends the establishment. "The education here is perfect," she says. "The lessons are in Arabic because our Koran is in Arabic. That's the way we want it."

Tough economic conditions among some Canadian Muslims may be helping to create a receptive audience for fundamentalist preachers. Many children attending some of the private Muslim schools come from welfare families, with their tuitions subsidized by mosques associated with the school or charitable organizations. Others have parents who work long hours at menial labour, and "when they come home, they are in tears," says one influential member of the Islamic community. But the children are taught at school that their parents' plight is the "fault of the infidel." Many mainstream Muslims say they're troubled by such teachings. "There is a narrow expression of Islam," says Jehad Aliweiwi, executive director of the Canadian Arab Federation. "It tends to be influenced by the Saudis because they happen to be the funders."

Helping channel Saudi money into Canada is the Muslim World League, whose Canadian branch operates out of an office building in Toronto's west end. The group, based in the Saudi city of Mecca, facilitates the construction of mosques, the education of poorer students and the financing of some religious celebrations. Arafat Ashi, director of the Canadian office, refuses to say how much money has been pumped into Canada. But he says the amount is not large, and points out that all the funding must be authorized by the Saudi Embassy in Ottawa.

According to Buturovic, no one knows exactly how much funding has washed into North American mosques. "Because the Saudis are on good terms with Canada and the United States," she says, "there has not been monitoring in various centres. No one knows the extent of the ideological penetration." But it has occurred, she says—because the funding comes at a price. In exchange for financial aid, mosques often must accept a Wahabbi imam and promote practices with strong "Wahabbi tendencies." Ashi says that, while the World League does become involved in the spiritual life of some mosques by paying to bring religious scholars to Canada, those visitors represent a cross section of Islamic thought. "We try to make them better Muslims," says Ashi. "To bring them back to their faith, the Koran and the practice of the prophet."

In Little Beirut, talk about Sept. 11, Islamic fundamentalists and the possibility that terrorists may be in Canada triggers instant debate. Sam Allad's voice rises above the shelves lined with jars of pickled cucumbers and Lebanese olive oil in his small store. The Sept. 11 attacks have had a terrible impact on Canada's Muslim community, he says, wiping his hand on his white apron. He is about to explain just how terrible when his friend Sam Manah stops pacing in front of a mirror with the words "There is no God but Allah" etched across the bottom. "Muslims get blamed for everything," he grumbles, jamming his cellphone into the pocket of his brown windbreaker. "We're misunderstood." As the extent of bin Laden's network is revealed, such misunderstanding may only increase.

With Rima Kar in Toronto

NAUTICA

BLOODBATH

An uprising of Taliban prisoners ends in a slaughter—and calls for an investigation

Who knows what really happened to ignite the battle between Taliban prisoners and their Northern Alliance captors inside the ancient mud walls of Qala-e-Jhangi fort near Mazar-i-Sharif. British, U.S. and Northern Alliance witnesses—and they're the only ones still alive to tell—claim it was started by the Taliban troops, who tried to fight their way out. But even if that's true, the gruesome bloodbath that ensued had the look of a fish-in-a-barrel massacre. When Red Cross officials were finally allowed into the fort, its air thick with smoke and the stench of death, they found a bomb-cratered killing field littered with the grotesquely contorted remains of about 400 prisoners, 40 Alliance troops and one American. Most of the prisoners, judging by the nature of their wounds and where they were found, appeared to have died fighting. But some, perhaps as many as 40, could not have fought back. Their hands were bound.

It was, some say, a slaughter, and Amnesty International immediately called for an inquiry. But seasoned observers claim a bloodbath was inevitable as soon as Northern Alliance forces first laid siege to Kunduz, the last Taliban-controlled city in northern Afghanistan. The garrison there was bolstered by hundreds of reputedly fanatical foreigners—Pakistanis, Chechens and Arabs—whom the Alliance hated for interfering in Afghan affairs. When the Taliban surrendered Kunduz on Nov. 24, the captured troops were shipped to Qala-e-Jhangi. Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, the ethnic Uzbek leader of Alliance forces around Mazar-i-Sharif, says his men were not to blame. "We tried to treat the prisoners humanely," Dostum told the first reporters at the scene. "I gave orders for them to be allowed to wash and pray, but they attacked us."

Eyewitnesses say fighting first broke out when a group of non-Afghan prisoners attacked their guards and took their weapons during an interrogation by two Central Intelligence Agency operatives. One of the CIA men, Johnny (Mike) Spann, 32, was killed in the vicious skirmish, the other was wounded but got away. It took three days and several strikes by U.S. bombers to quell the ensuing rebellion.

To the victors went the shoes. In the ghoulish aftermath, Alliance soldiers picked through the corpses, removing any decent footwear they could find. While many of the dead were in traditional baggy pants and long shirts under rough, wool vests, some of the Arab-looking victims wore wasmer western clothes—one had a Dolce and Gabbana fleece pullover, another a San Francisco 49ers sweatshirt.

Even after Red Cross staff wearing surgical masks began hauling the dead off to mass graves, at least one prisoner remained alive below ground, shooting at and wounding several aid workers. Alliance troops fired rockets into the fort's underground bunkers, and the man was finally killed. His stubborn resistance and last week's fight-to-the-death edict from the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, serve as a warning to the Northern Alliance and Pashtun troops converging on Kandahar. No one knows for sure whether Omar, Osama bin Laden and the top Al-Qaeda officials are still holed up in the city or in the elaborate cave network in the nearby mountains. But if this is going to be the Taliban's last stand, it will likely be long and very bloody. *James Deacon*



When Red Cross officials were finally allowed in, they found a killing field

Photograph/Reuters



Photograph/Getty Images

MARINES, RUSSIANS—AND A MISSING CANADIAN

As the United States and its Northern Alliance allies consolidated their grip over much of Afghanistan, the Taliban continued to hold out in their stronghold of Kandahar. Other developments:

■ Montreal reporter Kan Hechtman, 33, who writes for that city's weekly *Mirror* newspaper, was taken hostage by gunmen in Spin Boldak near the Pakistan border southeast of Kandahar. At week's end, there were conflicting reports about whether Hechtman had been released or remained a prisoner. Eight journalists have been killed in Afghanistan since Nov. 1.

■ More than 1,000 U.S. Marines established a base at a desert airstrip 120 km southwest of Kandahar. Among their likely duties: cutting off military supplies to the city and conducting raids. The airbase will probably be used as a staging area for Special Operations forces hunting Osama bin Laden and the Taliban leadership.

■ U.S. Marines were not the only new foreign arrivals in Afghanistan. Some 100 Russian troops showed up in Kabul, with plans to establish a field hospital and reopen the Russian embassy 12 years after the Soviet army retreated from Afghanistan in disgrace. But many foreign analysts believe the Russians are there to establish Moscow as a player in determining the future of Afghanistan.

■ In Bonn, the leaders of various Afghan factions gathered to negotiate the makeup of a future government. Under a proposal being hammered out, they agreed to create an interim executive with 150 delegates to govern the country for the next three months. But ethnic divisions still threatened to scuttle the plan.



PITY THE CHILDREN

As winter closes in, thousands of Afghan kids are facing hunger and disease

BY SALLY ARMSTRONG in Killi Faizo

The rickety old truck wheezes to a stop on the war-torn side of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border—the end of the line for its desperate human cargo. Abdul and Feroza Qayyum, their two children, Ali, 7, and Sharifa, 2, and the three orphaned kids travelling with them scramble to the ground with their worldly goods—a gunnysack of clothes and two filthy quilts tied up with twine. Although they are dirty and exhausted after their two-day journey from Kandahar, there is no time to rest. They immediately stagger forward on the final half kilometre of their dangerous flight, towards the small hole in the razor-wire fence marking the border—one last obstacle separating them from refuge in Pakistan.

Carefully avoiding the dangling shards of sharp metal, they make it across. Now they face a new struggle for survival, as they join almost 4,000 hungry, exhausted refugees in the Killi Faizo refugee camp on the Pakistan border. The Qayyum family, like thousands of others, is on the run from the war against the Taliban and the American bombs that have rained down on their villages, not to mention the drought that has afflicted the country for four years. For the next six hours they go through a registration process that seems agonizingly slow. The wait is made worse by Sharifa's illness. Barefoot and wearing just a threadbare cotton dress, she is painfully thin, coughing and suffering from exposure from sleeping in the desert with just a worn blanket to keep her warm. Feroza, wrapped in a black chadot, comforts her daughter while her worried husband tells *Maclean's*, "For my children's safety we decided to come here. I had two sacks of wheat left and sold them to pay for places on the truck that brought us here."

Hundreds of Afghan children have already died this fall. And according to Jeremy Hartley, UNICEF's emergency communications officer in Islamabad, another 100,000 will perish in the coming months if aid does not reach them immediately. But with Afghanistan in turmoil, and with bandits patrolling the roads, thousands of tons of food and medical aid remain in warehouses on the other side of the country's borders in Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan. There is even a shortage of food in the refugee camps. At one camp *Maclean's* visited, recent arrivals had not eaten in two days, at another, they had run out of clothing.

There are already tragic signs of the disaster to come—new children's graves,

Steve Armstrong/UNICEF

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small mounds of earth covered with rocks and marked with coloured pennants and bits of metallic string. The children don't cry much on their way to death. They quietly slip away in their sleep, or while waiting for the kindness of strangers. "It's a very anonymous process," says Hartley, "this business of children dying in war zones."

Like Shanfa, most of the children are malnourished, underweight and suffering from exposure, both in Afghanistan and the refugee camps. A measles epidemic also swept through the country; now, a deadly wave of polio is adding to the death toll. In just the three hours it took *Maclean's* to accompany the Qayyums from their truck across the border, and finally to tent No. 52-S in the Kili Faizo camp, two children died.

If they are lucky enough to escape disease and starvation, children are still at risk of becoming victims of the massive U.S. bombing campaign. Often far from help, they usually can't get to a medical centre soon enough and die from their wounds. At the Sandeman Provincial Hospital, in the western Pakistan town of Quetta near the Afghanistan border, 65 people have been treated for bomb injuries. Eleven-year-old Sath Mohammed was playing outside with his sister, Permenia, 7, near their home in Khartoot, when they heard the planes coming. "We ran to the house," says Sath. "Suddenly, there was a loud explosion. I fell to the ground, then I don't remember what happened."

Now he is lying in bed No. 11, trying to be brave in this hospital with its Kalashnikov-toting guards and dizzying anesthetic fumes. The bandaged stump of Sath's amputated leg is propped on a pillow, but he says it's the other leg, the one with a ragged row of stitches running from his calf to his groin, that hurts the most. Beside him in bed No. 10, Permenia is clinging to the hard plastic doll the nurses have given her. She doesn't want to talk about her wounds—a patchwork of burns on her arms, legs and face. "My children are not Osama bin Laden," says their father, Tajmusmmad, who was a used-clothing vendor before the war. "Why did this happen to them?"

Farther down the hall in bed No. 15, Saleema, 10, tells her story. "I heard the plane and ran to the house. I was almost there but a wall fell down on me." Neighbours tried to help her in Dashat, the village where she lived on the outskirts of Kandahar. But her leg was badly broken and, by the time she arrived at the hospital in Quetta five days later, it had to be amputated below the knee. Doctors struggled to save what remained. Injured Afghan children like Saleema need extensive rehabilitation, but most of them won't get it. Their families don't have enough to eat and can't find shelter, so fitting a prosthesis and teaching a child to walk again are a long way down their list of priorities.

Thousands of other refugees have fled to Quetta and Peshawar. Living in squalor—sometimes 19 to a single room with a dirt floor—they tell harrowing tales of walking for days over mountains, hiding from the warring factions, and stopping only to let their children gather the strength to continue. The children, although weakened by their long journey, are often immediately put to work as little more than slave labour to support their families. In the back alleys of Quetta, every third house seems to have been turned into a carpet factory. Inside, dozens of children between the ages of five and 15 sit on narrow benches in front of the looms.

They work at lightning speed, hooking coloured threads on the loom, following complicated patterns hanging on charts from the ceiling, hopping up and down from their perches to grab a new, differently coloured thread when necessary. The children smile at strangers and giggle with each other, but all have chronic coughs from inhaling the wool fibres. They are



Photography by Sally Armstrong/UNICEF



Many refugee children must work in carpet factories. Others, like Sath and Permenia (left), have been wounded.



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Sally Armstrong/UNICEF

At Rashid's school in Quetta, some attend classes to learn how to read and write

paid just 100 rupees ($2.60) when their team completes a seven-by-seven-metre carpet—just enough money to keep their families from starving.

The hero in their lives is Amir Rashid, a young man from Quetta who decided to do something about their plight. With $27,000 in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, he cut a deal with the carpet bosses and opened a school for the children. There are now 200 of them learning to read and write. If he had the money, Rashid says he could "make places for 600 more kids in this neighbourhood alone." Later, outside of the school, a dozen mothers chase Rashid down an alley, begging him to take their sons and daughters.

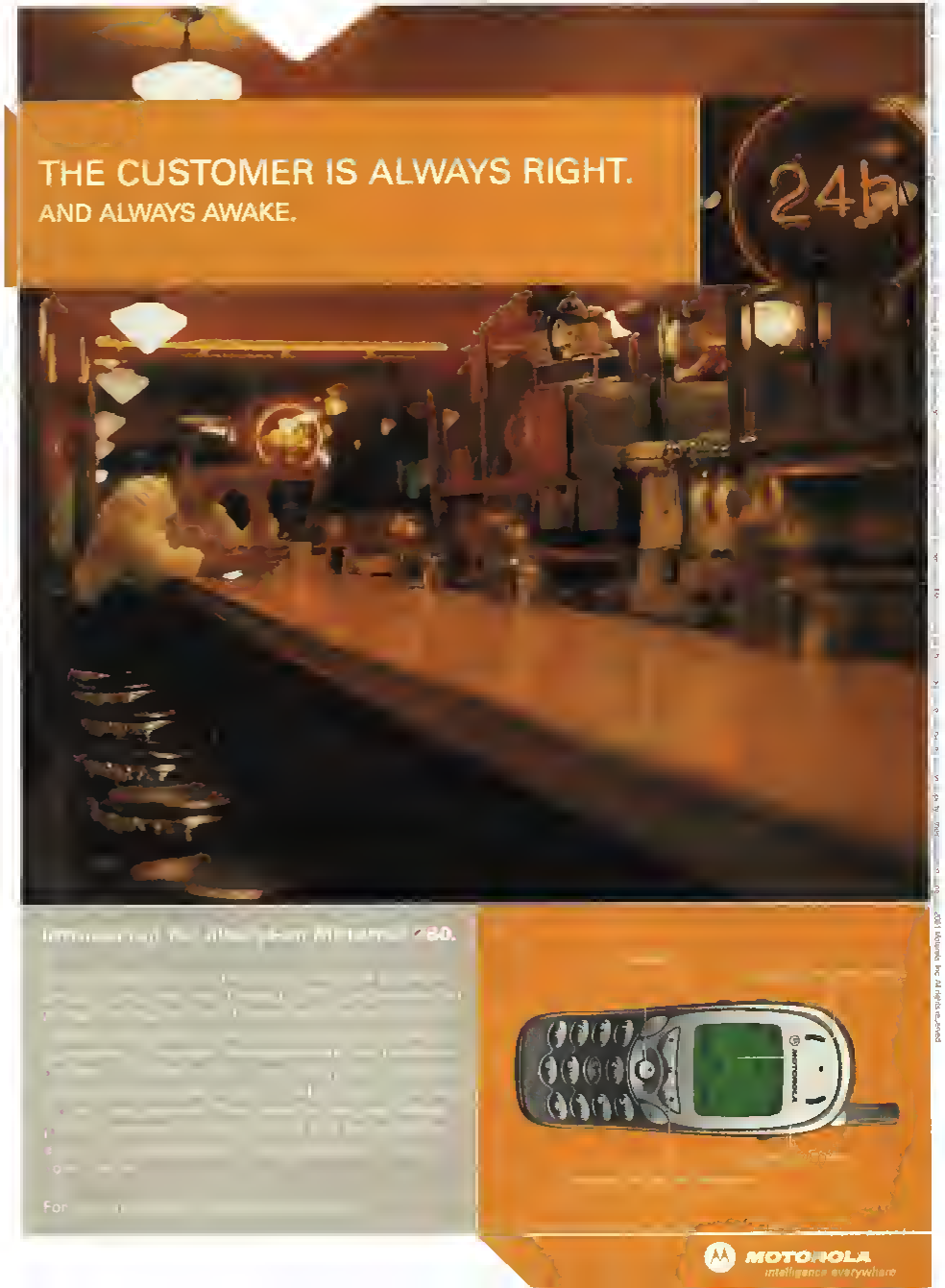
As bad as their situation is in the sweatshops of Quetta and Peshawar, these children will at least survive. Thousands of other men, women and children nearing starvation remain trapped inside Afghanistan. Nearly $340 million in aid has poured into the country, and dozens of groups are trying to reach the starving, but it is an enormously frustrating exercise.

UNICEF tried to get to some of them in mid-November by sending donkey convoys laden with food from Pakistan into Afghanistan, a manoeuvre that became something of an epic in itself. Nearly 1,000 drivers and 900 donkeys transported 4,500 loads of food in relays over 2,700-m-high mountain passes in about two weeks. But it wasn't nearly enough. "It's difficult to move inside the country," says Hatiley. "We've been pretty much restricted to Kabul, not because of a roadblock or a donkey's broken leg but because of the atmosphere of fear and confusion that's everywhere in Afghanistan today."

With the arrival of winter—and the possibility that the mountain passes will soon shut down—there is even more pressure to get the aid trucks rolling. More than 100 children froze to death last winter in a three-day period, as well as food, a million child-size winter jackets are desperately needed. But truck drivers are too frightened to head into the interior. "Four journalists were killed on the road to Kabul on Nov. 18," says UNICEF spokesman Gordon Weiss in Islamabad. "You can't ask drivers of aid convoys to take these kinds of risks."

Even as the situation worsens, there are some signs of hope as Northern Alliance and U.S. troops slowly take control of the country. Planes stuffed with blankets, wheat and sacks of clothes are landing. But stability is necessary for aid organizations to get on with the long-term work that must be done. "What's needed," says Weiss, "is infrastructure—education systems, health systems. The lack of these is what really kills people." In the Killi Faizo refugee camp, Feroza Qayyum says her needs are much simpler. "I just want to be someplace," she says, holding Shanfa in her arms, "where I can find bread for my kids and live in peace." ■

Journalist Sally Armstrong, a former editor of Homemaker's *magazine, is a UNICEF special representative.*



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BY ALLAN R. GREGG

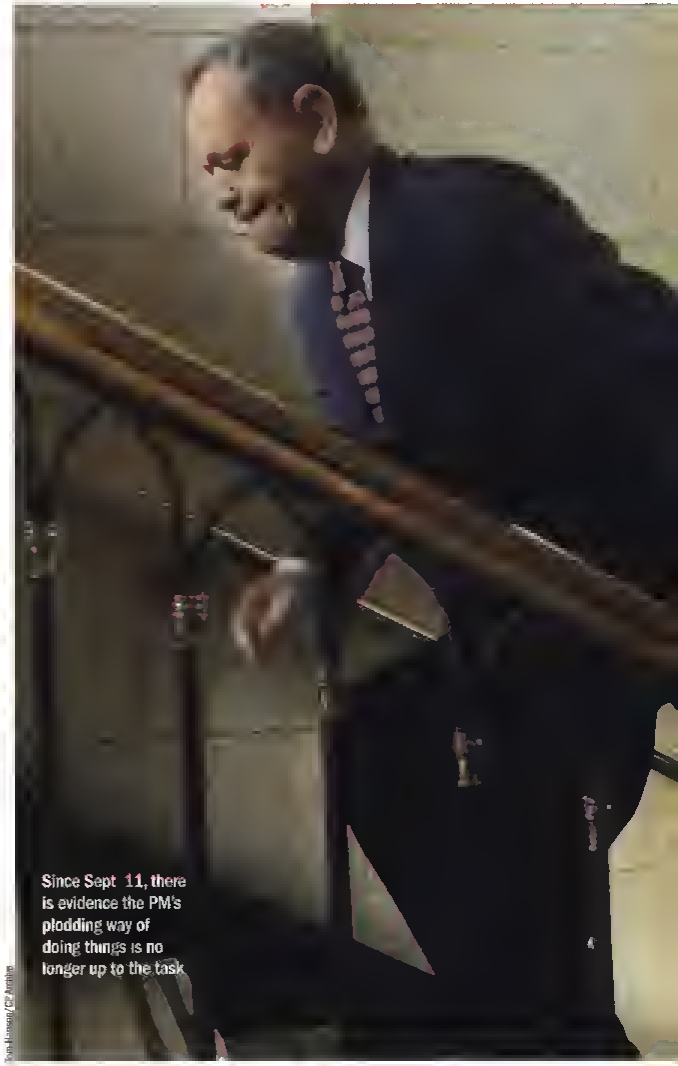


If politicians are sometimes slow to learn from their mistakes, they almost always learn from their successes. Nowhere has this been more true than in the case of Jean Chrétien. The Prime Minister assumed the highest office in the land in 1993, fully formed and developed as a politician. In his 32 years in office, he has assimilated a deep understanding of the inner workings of government and a keen sense of Canada and Canadians. This tutelage has taught him that the electorate he serves eschews extremism and instead values order, calm and stability. Over the years, he has adjusted his style and approach to government accordingly.

In a period of growing cynicism about politicians and diminishing expectations of the ability of government to solve problems, he has chosen incrementalism over vision. He does not anticipate problems; he nibbles away at their edges, as they arise. He may rattle his sabre at his enemies in public, but then will bend over backwards to find consensus behind closed doors. His ministers and caucus, who owe their position and victories to him, have marched in time with his slow, tempered drumming and adopted this style as their own. Three successive electoral wins have reinforced the wisdom of his approach.

This is not criticism. Far from it. There is an argument to be made that Chrétien has been successful precisely because he has been the right politician for the times. He has governed with a finesse that has conformed, absolutely, to the expectations and demands the electorate has placed on him. Since Sept. 11, however, there is growing evidence that Chrétien's political style—and the lessons learned from his uncanny success—are no longer serving him well.

In the period following the terrorist attacks, Canadians have come to accept that governments, once again, are relevant. Not



Since Sept. 11, there is evidence the PM's plodding way of doing things is no longer up to the task

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only do they believe that markets, business and deregulation will not protect them in these uncertain times, but there is a growing view that an unquestioning faith in these forces, at least in part, is responsible for their sense of vulnerability. Few are prepared to claim, any longer, that the private sector is most efficient in providing airport security or protecting airline passengers, let alone rooting out the perpetrators of their fear.

Added to the continuing anxiety over security, escalating economic uncertainty has pushed the population even closer to government. In fact, in a stunning reversal from past demonstrations of antipathy to public-sector intervention into the economy, an Ipsos-Reid poll reported last month that 78 per cent of Canadians believe "special measures are urgently required from the federal government" to deal with a possible recession.



Kathryn Hyslop/CP Archive

Tobin takes an activist stance

Not only is the public demanding more activism from government, but the staunchest defenders of our former laissez-faire regime—in private enterprise—are now also pressing government to take initiatives on their behalf. The airlines are calling for bailouts and loan guarantees. Generic pharmaceutical companies are seeking relief from patent protection to, they say, better serve the public in an emergency.

Less publicly, the business community is waging a ferocious lobby to harmonize our customs and excise regulations, urging the government to enter into a North American security perimeter in order to guarantee the free flow of goods and services across the Canada-U.S. border. The even greater irony is that whatever the federal government has done in these areas, it has been deemed to be "not enough" by these various constituencies.

It would appear, meanwhile, that the Prime Minister and his government are having serious difficulty adjusting to this new environment. Where other world leaders were quick to voice their outrage and plans to deal with the terrorist threat, Chrétien was tentative and nearly invisible. Virtually every initiative since then has been marked by hesitation, equivocation and contradiction. First, sky marshals were to be put on Canadian flights, then they weren't, then they were, but only on flights to Washington. A trial balloon was floated that Ottawa would take over airport security, which was immediately popped and now may be slowly reinflated. After broaching the possibility of applying a sunset clause to the more controversial parts of the terrorism bill, Chrétien then adamantly refused to grant his critics this small pacifier, only to fall silent when his justice minister accepted these amendments two weeks later. Ministerial contractions and counter-claims have left free-trade supporters and economic nationalists alike trying to comprehend where the government stands on border issues.

It would be easy to excuse each of these missteps, given the extraordinary circumstances in which they have been made. But taken together, they suggest more than mere mismanagement or bad communications. What we are witnessing appears to be nothing less than a government that has no playbook, template or context to assist it in altering its past behaviour to fit these new, pressing times. Cracks are beginning to show in the seamless Chrétien style because the approach that has always worked has been inappropriate in meeting the challenges at hand.

To date, the Liberals' stumbling has been most evident on the security file. But we are likely to see fissures opening even wider in the months ahead as the government attempts to come to grips with the failing economy. If the Chrétien approach to government has been the cornerstone of his success, the test of the foundation has been built on deficit reduction and the stewardship of government finances. This substantive area of achievement not only best typifies the Chrétien approach (saying No instead of Yes) but is also cited more than anything else as the greatest



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accomplishment of his eight years in power The fallout from Sept 11 threatens to tarnish that shining mantle

Three forces alone will deplete the government's projected surplus in rapid order The sputtering economy will slow the torrent of revenue Ottawa has enjoyed in recent years Commitments made to the military, airport and border security already surpass $2 billion. And the government has made binding commitments to reduce taxes and increase transfers to the provinces that will take effect next year

Then there is another complicating factor We are dealing with a government whose every move is played out against the backdrop of Chrétien's impending retirement. Paul Martin's instincts tell him to do everything in his power to prevent slipping into a deficit position That is both by temperament and his interest in protecting a balanced budget that he sees as his legacy, and not his Prime Minister's But at a time when the U.S is preparing to spend whatever it takes to wage war on terrorism and recession, and the Canadian electorate, business community and provinces are all calling for bold new initiatives, this don't-worry-be-happy-do-nothingism is destined to leave Martin appearing isolated and flat-footed

Sensing the front-runner's vulnerability, other leadership contenders in the cabinet will side with increasingly vocal constituencies who are lobbying for spending initiatives, all the while casting themselves as representatives of a new generation and style of leadership.

The signs of this showdown are already apparent Brian Tobin is positioning himself as the activist progressive—no terrorist in a cave will deter him from pursuing an agenda of innovation and development John Manley, formerly deemed too dull and pedantic to assume the highest office, has landed the plumb position as chief of the cabinet committee on security, only to find his colleagues calling for the dismantling of his perch. Justice Minister Anne McLellan tries to preserve her civil libertarian credentials by accommodating critics of her anti-terrorist legislation, and has her legs cut off by colleagues who want to fortify their flank with hard-line supporters of law and order. Meanwhile, Jean Chrétien, seeking to put his final stamp on what he publicly acknowledges as his legacy issues—environmental protection, aboriginal rights and Canada's role in the world—muses that the coming budget will double Canada's financial commitment to foreign aid

All of this is enough to give Paul Martin a migraine and send the opposition—if there were one—into paroxysms of joy. For eight years, the Canadian ship of state has had its keel very deep in rather shallow water Now, the unanticipated forces unleashed by the events of Sept. 11 are combining to brew a volatile cocktail that threatens the very calm, cautious and stable government that Canadians have come to value. When Paul Martin brings down his first budget in almost two years next week, it will be interesting to see if Chrétien and his colleagues have been able to learn from their recent mistakes rather than their past successes. m

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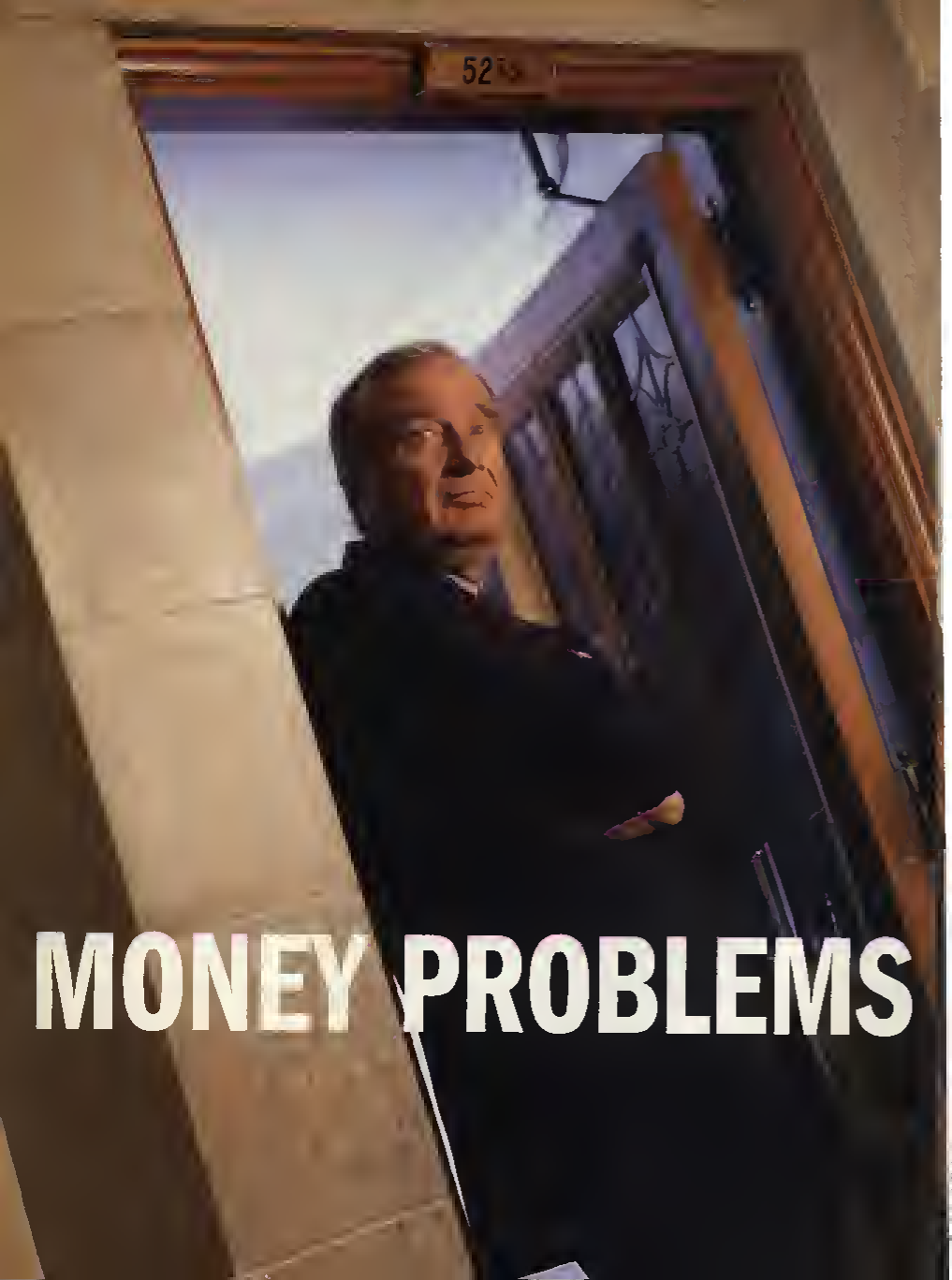
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MONEY PROBLEMS

A troubled economy narrows Martin's options—for the budget *and* himself

BY JOHN GEDDES in Ottawa

Paul Martin might have made things easier for himself. Following last year's federal election, Martin could have told Jean Chrétien he was ready to end his long run as finance minister. After bowing out as the man who slayed the deficit, Martin's next portfolio likely would have been foreign affairs. Had he made that move, it would have been Martin, not John Manley, bounding around the troubled globe this fall, burnishing his world-statesman credentials as Canada's envoy against terrorism. Instead, the perennial prime-minister-in-waiting faces for the first time—after delivering seven full budgets and October 2000's pre-election mini-version—the thankless task of drafting one in the teeth of a recession.

If Martin is losing any sleep over missing his chance to get out of Finance while the getting was good, he will, of course, never admit it. But the job can't be much fun these days. He has never worked under such ominous political and economic clouds, even back in the early years of his fight against the deficit. That was in the mid-1990s, when the economy was robust, Ottawa's tax haul was swelling, and the Liberal cabinet had fallen into line on the need to clamp down on government overspending—as had most Canadians. Today, the economy is stagnant, tax revenues are withering, and the cabinet is unwilling to let Martin set a course for harder times without clamouring for whatever cash there is. How he handles those pressures in the budget he intends to table on Dec. 10 will put Martin's enviable public image as a strong hand on the fiscal tiller to the test.

Three key themes are expected to run through his new blueprint. The first is the post-Sept. 11 agenda, with the bulk of any new spending, perhaps as much as $4 billion, devoted to anti-terrorism items like defence and border security. The second is the economic downturn, although Martin is not expected to unveil any major new spending or tax cuts to fight off a recession. Instead, he is likely to tout the economic boost from the five-year $100-billion tax cuts announced just before last fall's election, along with $23 billion in additional federal money flowing to the provinces over the same period. In fact, Martin puts more emphasis on safeguarding those old commitments than introducing new ones. "We've made it very clear," he said last week, "that both the corporate and personal tax cuts, and the transfers to provinces for health care and education, are going to be protected." He's also relying heavily on interest rate cuts to spark some spending; the Bank of Canada dropped rates last week by half a percentage point to a 41-year low.

The budget's third theme is the most politically loaded: Martin's personal legacy of a deficit-free federal government. After the whopping $17-billion surplus for the fiscal year that ended on March 31, stumbling back into a deficit seemed inconceivable—until recently. Now, Martin stops short of vowing to stay in the black, suggesting the risk of red ink is real. "I believe it's important that we do everything possible to avoid a deficit," is as far as he will go. Whether the economy will spin off enough tax revenues to keep the federal books balanced hinges on the U.S.-led recovery most economists predict for later in 2002. "If the economy doesn't turn around as the conventional wisdom sees it turning around, I can easily see us back in deficit next year," said Douglas Porter, senior economist at Nesbitt Burns, the Bank of Montreal's brokerage arm. "It's a close call."

How fast the U.S. economic engine can get back into high gear is the key question. Last week, the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research said the United States officially went into recession, defined as at least two consecutive quarters in which the economy shrinks, in March. But a major package of tax cuts and new spending was being hammered together in Washington, although the U.S. Congress was still debating the details. Dramatic U.S. government anti-recession measures could make Martin's budget look anemic. But he simply doesn't have the cash to match U.S. stimulative action in proportion to the Canadian economy.

As recently as 1997, Ottawa looked better off than Washington—balancing its books while the U.S. government was still in deficit. But by this year, Washington had surged well ahead, racking up a 2000-2001 surplus measuring 2.4 per cent of U.S. gross domestic product, the broadest measure of an economy's output, well above Ottawa's surplus of 1.6 per cent of the GDP. That leaves the U.S. government with more room to ramp up spending or slash taxes to combat the slump. The Canadian government might be packing the same sort of stimulative punch now had Martin not already loosened the purse strings during good times. After declining through most of the second half of the 1990s, federal spending began climbing again in 1999. By this year, program spending, which includes everything but interest payments on the federal debt, topped $119 billion—about the same as in 1994 when Martin tabled his first belt-tightening budget.

Other closely watched measures of economic health also show surprisingly little has changed since the Liberals came to power. When Martin tabled his first budget in 1994, federal taxes were soaking up 13.4 per cent of the GDP, a slice of the national wealth many economists thought was too thick. By 2000, the latest figures available from Statistics Canada, Ottawa's tax haul had crept up to 15.4 per cent of the GDP. Back in 1994, the loonie's value was a big worry, since it took about $1.37 in Canadian currency to buy $1 U.S. Now, it costs around $1.60 in Canadian funds to buy a single greenback. Canadian unemployment has fallen, to about 7.3 per cent this fall, from 10.3 per cent in 1994. But U.S. joblessness has also dropped—to 5.4 per cent this year from 6.1 per cent in 1994—so Canada's persistently worse rate remains troubling.

No wonder Martin's high standing rests so squarely on the singular achievement of eliminating the deficit. Should that accomplishment slip away, his ranking among the most successful finance ministers in Canadian history would no longer be unassailable. The all but uncatchable front-runner in the race to replace Jean Chrétien, revealed as fallible, might also begin to look vulnerable in the Liberal leadership sweepstakes—and the foreign affairs cabinet post that could have been his would look even better. m

Tony Bouliette/To Maclean's



Mary Janigan

Missing their chance

When Finance Minister Eric Cline triumphantly delivered Saskatchewan's eighth consecutive balanced budget last spring, he had every reason to be proud. The then New Democratic Party government had struggled throughout the early 1990s to claw the province out of one of the highest per-capita deficits in the nation. It had curtailed spending, raised taxes, overhauled the health care system. And it had won. It had even tucked aside $775 million for hard times.

The troubles commenced this summer. Drought crippled agriculture production. Exports—which represent 68 per cent of the province's GDP—dwindled as the American economy sputtered. Natural gas prices dropped—so royalties declined. In his March budget, Cline had already announced plans to dip into a third of his Fiscal Stabilization Fund because he expected the economy to slow. Now, in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, with revenues declining further, he has opted to scoop an extra $95 million out of the kitty. "Conditions are very difficult—but we do not plan to have a deficit," he says firmly. "We have the option of not hacking and slashing away at spending because we can balance our budget out of savings. We're very glad we have some."

Many provinces will slide back into deficit thanks to squandered opportunities when times were good

Few provinces have been so prudent. As the economy slips into recession, all 10 provincial governments are struggling against an insidious tide of red ink. How they fare in the bad times ahead will depend to a large extent on how they handled themselves when revenues were healthy. Most squandered their opportunities. BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. figures the combined provincial balance of $11 billion in surplus last year will turn into a deficit of almost $2 billion this year. From Newfoundland, which forecasts an $80 million deficit in 2001-2002, to British Columbia, which is braced for a $2 billion shortfall, the outlook is now very grim.

Revenues are plummeting. The pressures to spend on everything from health care to security to social assistance are growing. Worse, many provinces have scheduled multi-year tax cuts—which now appear like relics of a time when happy days seemed here again after years of sacrifice. "The provinces are back into fiscal problems," says Toronto-Dominion Bank chief economist Don Drummond, who calculates that every province would slide into deficit in 2002-2003—if some did not have the ability to dip into contingency or stabilization funds. "This is going to come as an unwelcome surprise to many Canadians who thought we could now rebuild the health and education sectors," he adds. "That is going to have to be postponed for at least a year or two."

There are lessons here. For starters, the provinces that will have more cash at their disposal are those that eliminated their deficits quickly—and began paying down their debt. Throughout the mid-1990s, Saskatchewan put roughly one-third of its annual surplus towards debt repayment. Resource-rich Alberta is more than eight years ahead in its 25-year plan to wipe out its debt. In contrast, Nova Scotia never did manage to eliminate its annual shortfall: its debt is now a whopping 46 per cent of the size of its entire economy. Debt charges gobble roughly 18 cents of each revenue dollar—the highest share among the provinces. As interest rates drop, that burden is diminishing. But it still represents a large chunk of cash that could have been so much better used elsewhere. "The lesson is never let debt build up," says Drummond. "The federal and provincial debt problem is going to curse us all for another 10 or 20 years."

Worse, many provinces did not seize the chance to make fundamental reforms in their health care or education systems when they were flush with cash. William Robson, research director at the C.D. Howe Institute, says Ontario should have implemented major reforms when it had enough money to smooth the transition. It could have tried to emulate British experiments where funds are channeled directly to schools, bypassing costly school boards. It could have shifted from fee-for-service payments to physicians to fee-per-patient payments. "An opportunity was clearly missed to move from hacking away at spending into making careful, quality changes in the way services were delivered," says Robson. "When the budget is tighter, reform is more difficult."

Now what? Tax cuts could be deferred. Newfoundland announced in October that it would not implement the third stage of planned cuts in personal income taxes next year. In fact, provinces should resort to almost anything short of major across-the-board hacking in recessionary times. Quebec is using most of its $950 million reserve to balance its books in 2001-2002. Ontario is dipping into its $1 billion contingency fund. But British Columbia's plan to cut up to a third of its government work force over the next three years and chop departmental spending is probably too harsh—and may only add to its economic woes. Still, governments that do slip into red ink will face the voters' wrath. "Every survey sends the message: no backsliding," warns Michael Marzolini, chairman of Pollara Inc. "Deficits are political poison." The message? Governments that wasted the good times now face troubles with their books—and at the polls.

History

The dot-dot-dot revolution

Marconi's radio signal sparked a century of wireless innovations

BY JOHN GUSHUE in St. John's

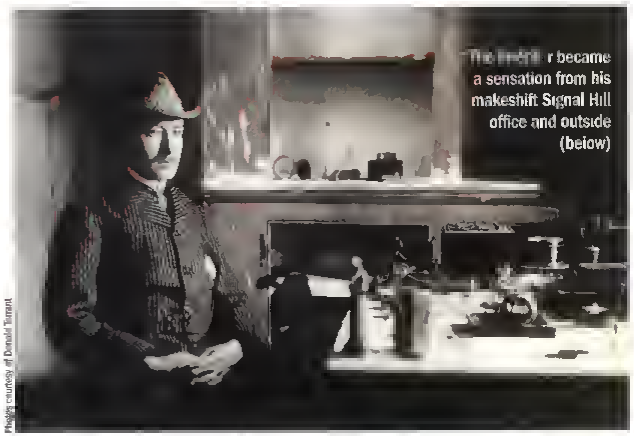


Photo courtesy of Donald Tarrant

The inventor became a sensation from his makeshift Signal Hill office and outside (below)

Signal Hill—that steep, stark sheet of rock that looms over the entry to the St. John's, Nfld., harbour—earned its name almost three centuries ago when British soldiers would wave flags from its summit to communicate with troops a few kilometres away. A century ago, on Dec. 12, 1901, Signal Hill lived up to its billing once more, becoming the dateline to a news story that seemingly changed the world overnight. On that date, Guglielmo Marconi, an ambitious, young Italian inventor, received the first wireless transmission of a telegraphic signal across the Atlantic Ocean. Originating in the Cornwall, England, village of Poldhu, the signal—a simple S, transmitted in the dot-dot-dot of Morse code—presaged a century of wireless innovations. The breakthrough brought Marconi both fame and fortune, but his achievements have also been the subject of some controversy.

A century ago, wireless was a new and poorly understood technology. Scientists assumed that because signals beamed straight into space, they could not travel long distances between two points on earth. Marconi believed otherwise. After five years of experimenting in Britain, he saw an Atlantic transmission as the next step—and a business bonanza. His mission was daunting. "It was," says Marconi biographer Donald Tarrant, "somewhat akin to sending a message to Jupiter today."

Arriving in St. John's with two British assistants, six kites and several crates of equipment, the 27-year-old inventor went straight to work. Using an abandoned hospital atop Signal Hill, he began his tests on Dec. 10. Marconi had instructed his team in Cornwall to transmit the Morse-coded S each day. On a freezing, windy afternoon two days later, with his assistants flying kites to keep the aerial receiver aloft, he heard the scratchy yet distinct taps from about 5,000 km away.

Because Marconi couldn't get the "inker" that normally records such transmissions to work, he repeated the experiment the next day to satisfy himself. After word of his achievement spread, he became an international sensation. But some scientists—Thomas Edison among them—had their doubts. "Nobody really expected it," says Tarrant, a St. John's retired electrical engineer and telecommunications buff. "All that existed was Marconi's word against the word of the scientists who said it couldn't happen." Within a couple of months, however, he repeated the experiment with printed proof. Edison not only surrendered his doubts but went on to become one of Marconi's business partners.

Yet Marconi faced other obstacles. The London-based Anglo-American Telegraph Co., which owned the only transoceanic cable between Britain and Newfoundland, warned Marconi that he was violating its monopoly and demanded that he cease and desist. Marconi moved quickly, setting up shop in Cape Breton and expanding south of the border.

In 1904, the U.S. Patent Office credited him with creating radio, but the pinnacle of his scientific achievements came five years later when he shared the Nobel Prize in physics with German physicist Karl Braun. Meanwhile, his companies prospered: one, the London-based Marconi Corp. plc, remains a high-profile—albeit battered by the latest market downturn—technology firm. Along the way, Marconi faced some bitter battles. In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court revoked his radio patent, thereby ending a suit Marconi had launched against the government over its alleged improper use of his discovery.



Documentary maker Chris Brookes, whose program on Marconi airs Dec. 12 on CBC Radio's *Ideas*, describes the inventor as "a bit of a hustler." Still, he adds, his achievements inspired a sense of wonder. Sitting in his production company offices at the bottom of Signal Hill, Brookes points to photographs of Marconi and his colleagues with their rudimentary equipment. "That kind of image must have caught the world's attention. It looks like a bunch of kids who went out to have a picnic and to fly some kites—and were able to pull off a miracle."



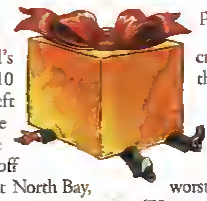
'When it becomes really bad financially,' says Koziol, who owes $165,000, 'that's all you think about'

Peter Tegg/Maclean's—Illustration by Ross MacDonald for Maclean's

THE DEBT BOMB

'Tis the season to use plastic—but watch out: Canadians are already borrowing way too much

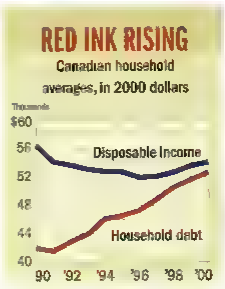
BY AMY CAMERON



When Natasha Koziol's marriage broke down 10 years ago, she was left with two children and a house bereft of furniture. Over the next three years, Koziol paid off the mortgage on their modest North Bay, Ont., home with her income as an accounting teacher. But when told she would lose her job in a year, she decided to go back to school. Today, Koziol has her PhD in accounting—but it came at a big cost. She is $165,000 in debt from borrowing against her house, line of credit and credit cards for her studies. Her new life was already tough, teaching evening courses at the University of Windsor, a 2½-hour drive from her home in London, Ont., she was pulling in only $36,000 a year. Then last June, the 43-year-old was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now on long-term disability at the same rate, Koziol has only $700 left each month for herself, Erika, 15, and Kurtis, 13, after making her debt payments. In January, she will undergo a mastectomy, but Koziol's greatest concern is not her health—it's her debt. "When it becomes really bad financially," she says, "that's all you think about. And it leads into this downward spiral."

Many Canadians know that feeling all too well. Personal debt is at its highest point in the country's history. Even before the shockwaves of Sept. 11 reverberated through the financial world, economists were questioning whether Canadians could dig themselves out from underneath the mountains of bills and loans. In the three months since terrorists attacked the United States, many people have been thrown into impossible financial situations as companies lay off workers or cut the overtime that brings in that extra bit of cash. Throw in Christmas spending sprees and the disappearing Canadian dollar, and credit counsellors are preparing for the worst. The numbers are already rising. "You can only put so much pressure on the system before it buckles," says bankruptcy trustee Frank Kisluk, president of Toronto-based Debtor Consulting Services Ltd. "With the layoffs, the American economy tanking, high debt levels and low savings—at some point, it will be too much."

In 2000, Canadian household debt—including mortgages, student loans, credit cards, car payments, lines of credit—reached an unprecedented 97.4 per cent of disposable income. According to Statistics Canada, the average household in 2000 owed $52,690 (households are slightly different than family units, seen in the chart breakdown on page 42). A decade ago, the figure was $42,047—in constant 2000 dollars. The financial attitudes of Canadians have also shifted. While debt has increased substantially, personal savings have plummeted to the lowest rate in recorded history—to 3.9 per cent of disposable income, compared with 12.9 per cent in 1990. The common boast "Canadians save, Americans spend" is no longer valid. Now, Canadians are spenders, too.



A huge concern is the amount of easily accessible credit available to almost all Canadians, regardless of their financial security. Every week, it seems, another credit card come-on slides through the mailbox. And the nation is charge-happy, spending $110 billion in 2000 on its

Visas and MasterCards alone ($34 billion of which was outstanding at the end of the year) There are more than 40 million of those two cards in circulation in Canada, almost double the number 10 years ago Yet there is a lack of good education on money management, says Kisluk "Credit is not there because you need money," he says "Credit is there to help you manage your money Those are two vastly different concepts " Even with interest rates that range as high as 20 per cent, there are 18 5 million cards carrying balances And still Canadians will turn to credit as a means of surviving the holiday season "We'll find the writing on the wall this Christmas when people are maxed out," says Laurie Campbell, program manager at the Credit Counselling Service of Totonto "Credit is bridging the gap between our wants and our needs "

Six months out of university, Jeff Jones wants a lot A 28-year-old economics graduate, he makes $45,000 a year with a big-city software firm He used plastic to buy new suits and shoes for work and has furnished his apartment with a Bay card On weekends, Jones (who asked that his real name not be used) easily blows $100 a night, taking out cash advances on his credit cards to eat and drink with friends He owes $6,000 on his four credit cards, $5,000 to his parents and $40,000 in student loans Every month, he pays around $200 in interest, and he is starting to realize he has some bad habits. "But my debt doesn't govern me," he says "It doesn't stress me out maybe as much as it should "

Indebtedness starts early As university and college students walk onto campus for the first day of classes, they are inundated with offers for student credit cards. The pitch—freedom, money at your fingertips, the low introductory interest rate—is hard to resist. And for increasing numbers of students, diplomas now come with a price tag—heavy student loans. Tim Stewart, a fifth-year sociology student at Acadia University in Wolfville, N S., started getting student loans in his third year after the money his parents had saved for his education ran out. Now, Stewart, 22, works two part-time jobs during the school year and is $35,000 in the hole "It's pretty huge but it's necessary," he says simply Yet whether student loans—which can be financially crippling and take 20 years to pay off—are good or bad debt is in question More and more people are defaulting on their loans because they're unable to manage the payments

"Student loans create a generation of heavy debtors," says David Leadbeater, an economics professor at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont Leadbeater, who researches income distribution and poverty, worries that Canadians are becoming inured to high debt loads, accepting it as a way of life "This needs to be resisted," he says "You cannot blame the victim. Most working people are net debtors and this is a result of government policy as well as corporate policy " Leadbeater suggests that all levels of government should be looking at ways to reduce tuition and lower the interest charged on student loans, mortgages and credit cards If they don't step in soon, he believes, more Canadians will be facing bankruptcy and the system will be overloaded.

Douglas Porter, a senior economist with

HOW TO GET OUT OF DEBT

The mountain of bills piling up on your desk can seem insurmountable—mortgage, hydro, student loans, roof repairs, long-distance calls to Mom—not to mention that specter known as the Visa of Christmas Just Past. As more Canadians slip into indebtedness, *Maclean's* has compiled tips from credit counsellors across the country on how to get out from under:

1 KEEP TRACK. In order to figure out how much money you can put towards debt, you need to know how much money you have. For a month, write down everything you spend—from gas and water bills to that 3 p m weekday snack. At the end of the month, categorize your spending and see where you might be able to save. You may be surprised You could find, for example, that you're paying $15 a month on rental video late fees, or that you could save around $60 a month if you pack a bagged lunch twice a week.

2 PAY CASH. Generally, if you have the money on hand, you can afford the purchase—especially since most people avoid carrying a large amount of money with them. Not only does handing over cold cash force you to keep track of how much you're spending, it reduces impulse buying.

3 CONSOLIDATE YOUR CREDIT CARDS. In an ideal world, everyone would pay off their card balances every month if you can't, at least you can bring down the enormous interest charges If you have more than one card, pick the one with the lowest interest rate and move all of your balances from other cards onto this one Then, cut up your other cards. Even better, take out a bank line of credit at a much lower interest rate and pay off all your plastic. If this isn't an option, try to pay more then the minimum required every month Otherwise, it will take years to clear your card and you'll pay almost as much in interest as you did on the original purchases.

4 THINK TWICE ABOUT DEBIT. It's plastic, it has the same seductive shape of a credit card and hundreds of thousands of Canadians use their debit cards as though they were Visas. Paying by debit is a cashless, efficient way of making purchases, but beware—before you do think about whether you would hand over paper money for the same item. If not, put your bank card away On the cash side, avoid ABMs at other banks, as you are charged a user fee. Take out more money from your own bank and budget it over several days, since withdrawing money every morning on the way to work could encourage you to spend it on a daily basis



Print illustration by Claudia Dávila

5 USE COUPONS AND BUY IN BULK. Clipping can be a hassle, but coupons for items you regularly purchase can save you hundreds of dollars a year Avoid higher priced name brands and, when you can, buy things more cheaply in bulk.

6 BE OPEN WITH YOUR FAMILY. Though being in debt can be embarrassing and awkward, honesty about it is paremount. Not only will your family start looking at cheaper ways to have fun, but children will learn why they can t always have the latest gadget or join every expensively equipped sports team

7 USE MASS TRANSIT. The costs of gas, parking, insurance and maintenance for your car can be overwhelming Public transport not only reduces the expense but can sometimes even be quicker

8 SEEK HELP. The sooner you accept that you need assistance, the sooner you'll regain control over your finances While private credit counsellors charge a fee, agencies that are not-for profit are less expensive and offer some services for free; ask beforehand Credit counsellors will help you budget your money and can negotiate with creditors on your behalf They can ask creditors to stop charging interest, reduce monthly payments to what you can afford and even work out a lowered principal And they can propose such solutions as a debt-consolidation loan in which you commit to a single lower monthly payment that stretches but over a longer period of time.

There may be other ways to pay off your debts, including refinancing your home, taking on a second job or selling an asset such as a car As a last option, you can declare personal bankruptcy This isn't as easy as simply liquidating your assets—you must meet certain requirements under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, and some debts are not discharged, such as child support, alimony and student loans less than 10 years old It's drastic, but at least it is a way of starting fresh

Amy Cameron

THE PROPER USE OF PLASTIC

You are pre-approved for a brand new gold card that offers a low introductory interest rate! Your limit will be double that which you have on your classic card, and with the new card you also get bonus features—points, miles, groceries, you name it. So fine get it—you're good with money and you can handle it. But even people who faithfully pay their card bills on time can benefit from tips credit counsellors offer These suggestions come from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beating Debt for Canadians*:

- Read the fine print on your credit card contract—make sure you know if the interest rate is an introductory rate that will double in three months and how much you'll be charged in annual fees
- Read your bills carefully—credit card companies can make mistakes.
- Try not to use cards for cash advances. Most charge a transaction fee of about three per cent per advance, and interest begins accumulating the minute the money spits out of the machine.
- Call your card issuers and ask for a lower interest rate Suggest a rate that falls between their introductory rate and your current one. They may agree if you suggest they increase your credit limit and transfer your balances from other cards onto theirs.
- There is a grace period on credit cards that can be used to your advantage if you maintain a zero balance. Figure out when you are billed and when your payment is due. Charge larger purchases in the days after you are billed and the amount will only appear on the next bill, effectively giving you just under two months to pay it off before interest kicks in
- Throw away all credit card come ons—unopened.

BMO Nesbitt Burns, disagrees about the need for government intervention. "I wouldn't be surprised if debt levels topped out soon and began to recede a bit in the next few years," he says, noting that baby boomers will increasingly pay off their mortgages. In any case, the onus to get out of debt lies in the hands of the individual, says Porter. "It has to go hand in hand with slower consumer spending, which is not an easy pill to swallow."

Some people, like Koziol, work around their debt. After the children's father left, Koziol learned to clean the eavestroughs, fix the washing machine, leave the floors less than sparkling and get her kids to make art for the walls. Instead of buying furniture she could ill afford, she bought $2 plants from Wal-Mart to fill empty corners. She swaps clothes with friends, buys in bulk and serves less meat to her family. "You have the choice to lie down and say, 'Oh, I am a victim,'" says Koziol. "Or you have a choice to jump off a cliff and learn to fly. There are no other choices."

Jonathan Rabbat didn't have a choice. He was one of the 73,000 Canadians who filed personal bankruptcy in 1999. Like so many others, his debt began with credit cards. At 19, Rabbat (who asked that his name be changed) managed to get four Visa cards while studying in Montreal. For the next few years, he got deeper and deeper into a financial pit by paying only the minimum due on each card. In 1994, he moved to Toronto to look for work. With the higher cost of living and no job, he lived off cash advances from his cards. When Rabbat finally got a post at a bank, it paid less than he'd hoped. After a few years, determined to make more money, he launched his own business. "When I quit my job, that is when hell broke loose," he says, recalling his complete lack of cash flow. "I don't see myself as a failure so I stuck with it for another year and a half. By then, I had no money to eat or for rent." When Rabbat finally sought credit counselling, he was stuck in a financial nightmare—he had a low-paying job and a $45,000 debt load, he lived in a house with nine other people, and creditors constantly hounded him on the phone.

It had taken 13 years for Rabbat to accumulate his debt. Swallowing his ego, he declared bankruptcy and found a job at another financial institution. Rabbat, 35, is now making $45,500 and lives by himself in a nice $900-a-month apartment. He can afford to save $500 a month and pays cash for most items, but he is trying to build credit again through a secured Visa card with a limit of $500. "Now I owe nobody," he says. "I am a free man."

Like Rabbat, more Canadians are now filing personal bankruptcies—also known as consumer bankruptcies—to help free themselves from the shackles of debt. In 1990, there were 42,782 such filings. By 2000, the figure had jumped to a whopping 75,137 filings. With so many Canadians living paycheque to paycheque, events like Sept. 11 can wreak havoc on precarious budgets. In October, 7,612 people filed consumer bankruptcies, up 16 per cent from the year before. This is no surprise to David Stewart, assistant superintendent of bankruptcy in Ottawa. Many people have lost jobs, second jobs or overtime, he says. "Based on the debt load that the average person is carrying these days, there is going to be a pretty quick reaction."

Campbell, whose nonprofit organization

WHAT WE OWE

Average amount of particular debts for Canadian families and singles who have them

Home mortgage	$76,116
Line of credit	13,542
Vehicle loan	11,226
Student loan	10,361
Credit card and instalment balances	3,033
Other debt	9,301
OVERALL AVERAGE DEBT	**$55,155**

Source: Statistics Canada 1999

GOING BANKRUPT: 'YOU CAN'T GET MUCH LOWER THAN THAT'

Joe Vogl hadn't banked on a run of bad luck when he decided in 1994 to build a home for his wife, Toni, and three young children on an acreage outside the northern B.C. lumber town of Fort St. James. Construction was only partly complete when his contractor went bankrupt. Vogl, 42, a maintenance worker at the local Canfor Corp. lumber mill, begged his bank for a larger mortgage to finish the house. "That's what pretty much started the whole tailspin," he says.

As the sole breadwinner, Vogl says the $150,000 mortgage was "achievable—if you're getting 40 hours a week work." That had rarely been a problem. He'd worked steadily at the mill virtually since high school. But even the rugged isolation of Fort St. James isn't immune to depressed timber prices, weak world markets, and a bruising softwood lumber dispute with the U.S.

The layoffs piled up. Vogl estimates he was off work at least 15 weeks in each of the past two years. The Vogls exhausted their retirement savings and were still overwhelmed with debt. "What are you going to do—eat or pay the mortgage?" he asks. "It boils down to you just can't spread yourself thin enough. In a single-income family, you're hooped." They put the house up for sale, but there were no takers. "Every third or fourth house in this place is for sale," he says.



For Vogl, it was 'eat or pay the mortgage'

In February, with the bank about to foreclose, Vogl declared bankruptcy. The family moved into a rental home, and moved again to still-cheaper accommodation heated by a woodstove. They were left with their clothes, furniture and two old vehicles. Without credit cards, they pay cash, or they don't buy. "You cannot catch up, there's no way," he says, contemplating a pre-Christmas layoff. "It's like they say 'You work for wholesale wages and pay retail!'"

The family considered leaving town, but, "where to?" The risk and expense is daunting, and the softwood dispute has hammered the entire industry. As well, the children, aged 13, 12 and 8, are unsettled by two moves already this year. Vogl tries to console himself with the knowledge they've lost only material possessions, but the pain is evident. "Bankruptcy is kind of a low blow," he says. "You can't get much lower than that. I think the only thing lower is prison." *Ken MacQueen*

Nola Pressley/Vancouver Province



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counselled 25,000 people in Toronto last year, estimates it will serve 10 per cent more in 2001. "What was happening in the early '90s is happening now," she explains. "People have no room to move. This has become a societal problem. You can't blame debt on the poor—it is an epidemic across all income brackets." It also hangs over the heads of both young and old. Among Canadian families with breadwinners over 65, Statistics Canada research shows that while 67 per cent own their home, 10 per cent still carry mortgages. Judy Cutler, spokeswoman for Canada's Association for the 50-Plus (formerly the Canadian Association of Retired Persons), says debt continues to be a major issue for seniors. "For some of them, it is whether they should cut back on medication or food," she says. Many are doling out huge percentages of their income to cover rent, leaving them unable to keep up with their bills. "More and more seniors are going to food banks," adds Cutler. "We used to be human beings, but now we are consumers. There is no heart in it anymore."

For all ages, the most damaging side-effect of debt is the emotional toll it takes. Not only is it hard for people to acknowledge they have a financial problem, it can be mortifying to admit it to others. Many who are overwhelmed with bills are completely distracted by their debt load—they can't sleep, they're eating terribly, they've started smoking again, they're drinking too much. "The financial challenges are very insidious," says Koziol. "They're with you day and night. I've had times where I wake up in the middle of the night and I run for my purse thinking, 'My God, is it still there?'" In desperate circumstances, as the debt accumulates and the stress becomes too much, marriages break down or abuse begins in the home. At worst, a debtor will commit suicide.

There is some good news. Interest rates are falling—last week the Bank of Canada again lowered its key rate by half a percentage point, to 2.25 per cent, the lowest since 1960. With chartered banks following suit, people are renegotiating their mortgages and taking out cheaper lines of credit. The dropping rates, however, have little or no effect on credit cards. Banks say they must keep card rates high to cover costs of marketing, fraud and loan losses, as well as benefits associated with some cards. Nor do the banks have much sympathy for those consumed by credit card debt. "There is an obligation on the part of the consumer to make the right choice," says Bank of Montreal spokesman Joseph Barbera. "You don't go buy a Rolls-Royce when you can't afford the gas."



Peter Tanlay/Maclean's

Kosic uses debt to his advantage: 'Credit cards have never made money from me'

While borrowing can be an onerous burden, it can also be a tool for Canadians to build dreams. Good debt—the kind that is manageable or attached to assets such as a house or car—can help people create better lives for themselves. Michael Kosic has always used debt wisely. At the age of 16, he got his first credit card. A year later, he bought a condominium with his brother. Through university, he established a good credit rating by using his plastic carefully and always paying the bills in full. "Credit cards have never made money from me," he says. Three years ago, Kosic and his girlfriend, Malini Pandya, made a decision to go into debt so that he could study for his MBA in France. Returning to Canada this summer, Kosic, 29, is now working for himself and Pandya, now his wife, is studying architecture while looking for work. They are not debt-free—he owes $30,000 in loans for his education—but due to an excellent interest rate he negotiated with his bank, he is choosing to focus his funds on other aspects of their life. "I only worry about money because I want to be in a position where I don't worry about money," he says.

Natasha Koziol is determined not to drown in money worries. While her lawyer has urged her to file for bankruptcy, she intends to pay back every cent she owes as a matter of honour. And she plans on enjoying her life as well. Some of the plants in her house now stand 2½ m tall. They fill her living room, sharing the space only with a heavily burdened bookcase and a single chair. It is fall and the temperature in her home is kept low—15° C—to save money. But despite the chill, it is a cozy atmosphere filled with her children's friends and the sound of laughter. This spare living arrangement comes as much by design as out of necessity. "It's not going to be one big solution that will solve everything," says Koziol. "It is going to be a ton of little things that are going to allow you to survive. And I am not going down over this." That kind of will can move a mountain of debt. m

Do you feel weighed down by debt? www.macleans.ca

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Donald Coxe

The inflation bogey

For a quarter century, the premier battleground for the ongoing dispute about the outlook for inflation and interest rates has been a futures pit a block from my office—the Chicago Board of Trade. Befitting the board's history as the world's leading futures market for grains and soybeans, a mammoth statue of Ceres, goddess of agriculture, graces the peak of this landmark. If Ceres' concerns were still the backbone of the board's business, the financial history of our time would have been very different.

In the 1970s, some of the board's leaders began to realize food wasn't the stuff of financial progress. Working with brilliant thinkers at the University of Chicago, they devised a new kind of futures instrument—the U.S. treasury bond contract. It didn't cover a specific bond, because bonds mature, and no single issue would be big enough to back a major futures contract. What the T-bond futures contract covered was—and is—a synthetic bond representing all long-outstanding treasuries. When this contract began trading, investors finally had a convenient, highly liquid vehicle for making simultaneous bets on the outlook for inflation and interest rates. (Gold is an excellent inflation hedge, but it is subject to the vagaries of central bank selling and is expensive to store and insure.)

Once again, economists are saying the good news is over while dismissing talk of deflation as absurd

For more than two decades, the activity in the T-bond pit has been a good gauge of investors' outlook on inflation, and how the Federal Reserve will seek to control it. Most of the time, prices in the pit trade in a narrow range compared with the swings in the Standard & Poor's 500 futures pit 10 blocks away at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. In recent weeks, those pits have swapped roles. The bond pit has been the scene of the biggest price swings since the Crash of 1987, while the S&P pit has experienced reduced volatility as investors try to digest the stock market's big runup from the September panic lows.

What is unfolding is the latest chapter in the central economic and financial debate of our lifetime: what will happen to inflation? After the double-digit agonies of the 1970s, Paul Volcker, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan vowed they would slay the beast. Just about nobody believed them. In part, this skepticism was rooted in Club of Rome thinking. Since 1970, that collection of modern Malthusians, including Pierre Trudeau, had been meeting (in Rome, *naturalmente*) to wine and dine sumptuously, then emerge to predict global food and commodity shortages. Oil, metals and grains would be scarce forever, creating perpetual inflation, crises and wars.

As if those gloomy prophecies weren't enough, economists cited the ways in which inflation was ingrained into democratic economies: governments had to keep raising expenditures to create jobs and pay the endlessly mounting cost of social and health benefits. Those expenditures would be financed by rising taxes or deficits—each of which was ultimately inflationary. Unions—particularly public-sector unions—had the power to bring the economy to a halt to enforce their demands for large wage increases with full inflation protection. Central banks were thus forced to print too much money to offset the rising costs of wage settlements and handouts.

No wonder investors concluded they had to protect themselves by buying oil wells, silver and gold. Bonds were horrible investments, and even stocks weren't safe because governments could grab the inflation-generated gains. (Canada's National Energy Policy was only the most egregious example.)

We now know the experts were wrong. Since Reagan and Thatcher's early years in power, inflation has been in secular decline globally. In each five-year period since 1981, inflation shrank, and in each cycle it fell harder than economists, investors and the public anticipated. Three inflationary decades had "proved" to all who would think about it that inflation was part of the human condition. Unlike smallpox and polio, it was ineradicable.

Long-term fixed-rate bonds are the worst-performing asset class when inflation rises more than investors anticipate. Conversely, as Canada's history since 1981 has demonstrated, they are the best-performing asset class when inflation falls much more sharply than anticipated. (Think how happy you'd be today to be holding the Canada bonds trading that year with 18-per-cent yields. Such yields were available on long bonds because both Ottawa and investors assumed double-digit inflation would last forever.)

Over at the board of trade, the old skepticism is returning. Long-term rates have risen sharply even as recorded inflation touches new lows under the hammer blows of a new force—deflation. Economists again say (as they have so regularly since 1984) that the good news on inflation is over and again dismiss talk of deflation as absurd.

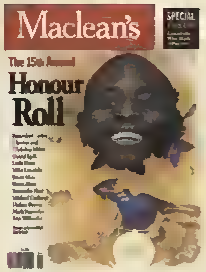
The performance of the global economy and financial assets hinges on the outcome of this latest outbreak of the inflation debate. I'll give you my take on that story next week. m

Donald Coxe is chairman of Harris Investment Management in Chicago and Toronto-based Jones Heward Investments.



Honour Roll 2001

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



This December, Maclean's 16th annual Honour Roll will present 12 profiles of Canadians who have made a difference to the nation. This special report will appear in the December 24th issue, on newsstands the week of December 17th.

Know any local heroes in your community?

Readers are invited to submit nominations with testimonials of 50 words or less. To be considered, candidates must be Canadian citizens who have made a significant contribution to the life of the nation in 2001.

Maclean's editors seek people from a wide variety of fields, famous or not, with only one exception: those engaged professionally in politics.

Submissions should be sent to:
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Chris Wattie/Chong/AP Archive

Agent Maya

Special effects are a Hollywood staple, and 3-D software like Maya makes them seem effortless. While Maya, created by Toronto-based Alias|Wavefront, is widely recognized for films like *Pearl Harbor* and *The Perfect Storm*, it is less well known for its use by security officials. The CIA, for instance, used the program to make an animated re-creation of the crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island, N.Y., in 1996. Now, the software house says U.S. government agencies are interested in using Maya to map the dispersal of hazardous materials spewed across New York City by the World Trade Center collapse.

Maya's advantage is it takes into account the laws of physics, says Ed Ward, who drums up government business for Alias|Wavefront. Ward says the identity of the U.S. agencies is confidential, and the FBI, which bought the software two years ago, told *Maclean's* it does not comment on its methods. What Ward will say is he has fielded questions from the agencies on how Maya can be used to track debris fallout, and where hazardous material, given prevailing wind patterns in New York at the time, might have settled.

Using the software, programmers can split three-dimensional air space into vertical slices and apply "wind effects" to each slice to simulate how the wind was blowing and how it would swirl debris around buildings. Once they know that, investigators can get a rough idea of where to look for potential environmental hotspots. "Maya," says Ward, "gives you a visual representation of where to start your investigation."

Lights ahoy

The aftermath of Sept. 11 has also raised the profile of Victoria-based Carmanah Technologies Inc. It landed six new contracts for its solar-powered lanterns, including a $35,000 order for the U.S. navy. The navy needs the lights to mark floating barricades deployed around ships at anchor, a requirement that grew in urgency after the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen last year, as well as the World Trade Center attack. About the size of a coffee tin, the marine lights feature a domed solar panel that sits on top of each unit like a lid, charging a sealed lead-acid battery that powers light-emitting diodes. *Danylo Hawaleshka*

COOL SITE

Sex education

Lovemaking, fornication, doing the nasty—call it what you will, sex can be embarrassing to talk about. But thanks to the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, teens, adults, health professionals, parents and teachers can learn much of what they need to know at *www.sexualityandu.ca*. The site is smart and fun, covering everything from the basics in disease to pleasing your partner and yourself. And there's no need to blush.



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ASTONISH YOURSELF



Ann Dowsett Johnston

The Christmas triathlon

Call me perverse, but as I brace for the beginning of December and the season of shoulds, I make an annual ritual of consulting Martha Stewart's holiday to-do list. Standing at the checkout counter with my small Everest of groceries, a stack that will include one pre-fab, easy-assembly gingerbread house, I sneak a peek at the calendar at the front of *Martha Stewart Living* (an oxymoron if ever there was one). The calendar is supposed to represent Martha's personal agenda, but we the readers are not fooled. The real Martha has a small army of staff to keep her dates straight, to hang her mistletoe (Dec. 22), and decorate her dogs (Dec. 25). No, this agenda is meant for us, a clip-and-save blueprint for order and perfection. The message is clear: if we, of the higgledy-piggledy lives, promise to lock-step behind Martha, she will do her darndest to set the wayward straight. After all, a happy life is simply a matter of sticking to a schedule, right?

And a Herculean schedule it is. Here are her marching orders for the month ahead. By Dec. 8th, all fruitcakes will be baked; by the 10th, gingerbread houses assembled. Freeing us up, of course, to clean our chandeliers on the 11th and order rose bushes (for spring delivery) on the 18th. By the 20th, all gifts will be wrapped, which leaves the 23rd pretty much free. Martha suggests yoga in the morning and hiking in the afternoon. And if all goes according to schedule, we'll be mulching our perennials with Christmas tree branches on the 28th. (Which, I should point out, is a full eight days earlier than Martha wanted us mulching in 1997. This I know because somehow I missed the instruction to clear out back issues of magazines.)

Yes, if all goes according to schedule, order will prevail and perfection will unfold. But of course it won't. It never does, not in real households. And Martha, let me break it to you: it's a good thing. As a working mother, I can pretty well promise you that by Dec. 25, the chandeliers in my house will not be cleaned. You can bet that only half my Christmas cards will be sent, and that easy-assembly gingerbread house will sit, half constructed, as it has more often than not since 1992 when I returned to work full-time. And there's no doubt: long after the stockings have been hung, I'll still be wrapping gifts by the fire, playing beat-the-clock with Christmas morning. Only once did I mulch the Christmas tree, and come spring, my rhododendrons died anyway.

No, I won't be bamboozled into believing Martha knows best. Not that I'm a total slouch. Once upon a time in a former life, long before I became a working mother, I too hand painted Christmas cards and quilted ornaments for gifts. Heck, I even hand-sequined the dog's stocking. I kept up with every tradition my mother had, and more. But somewhere in the mid-'80s, those simple pleasures morphed into the Christmas triathlon, and the race has just about scuppered every working mother I know, and their families to boot. Who cares about perfect profiteroles if the mini-Martha who made them is exhausted, in bed with the flu? (And yes, it's usually mini-Martha. I know very few households where holiday preparation is seen as an equal-opportunity event.)

> Who cares about perfect profiteroles if the mini-Martha who made them is exhausted, in bed with the flu?

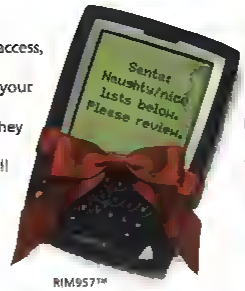
After a few Sisyphean seasons, most of us began to realize that the more we outdid ourselves, the more we were being undone. There was no magic in marching onward, and yet there was no magic in retreating to the past. As the late Laurie Colwin once wrote, "It is my opinion that Norman Rockwell and his ilk have done more to make already anxious people feel guilty than anyone else." And this: "For every overworked professional woman of the nineties there was a depressed, bored, nonworking housewife of the fifties." It was up to us, she wrote, to reinvent traditions to make way for what she called life's one great luxury: time together. Colwin died nine years ago at the age of 48, but her books live on, still offering the perfect antidote to the Martha-fication of modern life. Curl up with *More Home Cooking: A Writer Returns to the Kitchen*—a book that is so much more than a cookbook—and read the story of how she bought expensive linen string with which to truss a chicken. String that her daughter used to make spiderwebs. The chicken remained untrussed—and lovely just the same. As Colwin says in her clear, unpretentious voice, "You just have to relax. I assure you that if you keep it simple, everything will turn out just fine."

This year, my lanky 17-year-old son and I will do our best to keep it simple. We'll agree, once again, to top our magnificent Christmas tree with the little toilet paper roll, a blue scribbled figure with twig arms that he brought home in kindergarten—a figure that I once thought was an angel, but he now confesses is a policeman. Never mind. And once again, the two of us will ditch the gingerbread house, opting for shortbread instead. Let's face it, there's no construction challenge with shortbread. For a few raucous hours, we'll jostle about the kitchen with our duelling rolling pins, indulging in the fine art of sprinkling sprinkles, and yes, debating the relative merits of seasonal background music. I'll vote for Handel's *Messiah*, he'll vote for U2, and somehow we'll saw off at John Lennon. Because, as Colwin says, if you keep it simple, everything is bound to turn out just fine.



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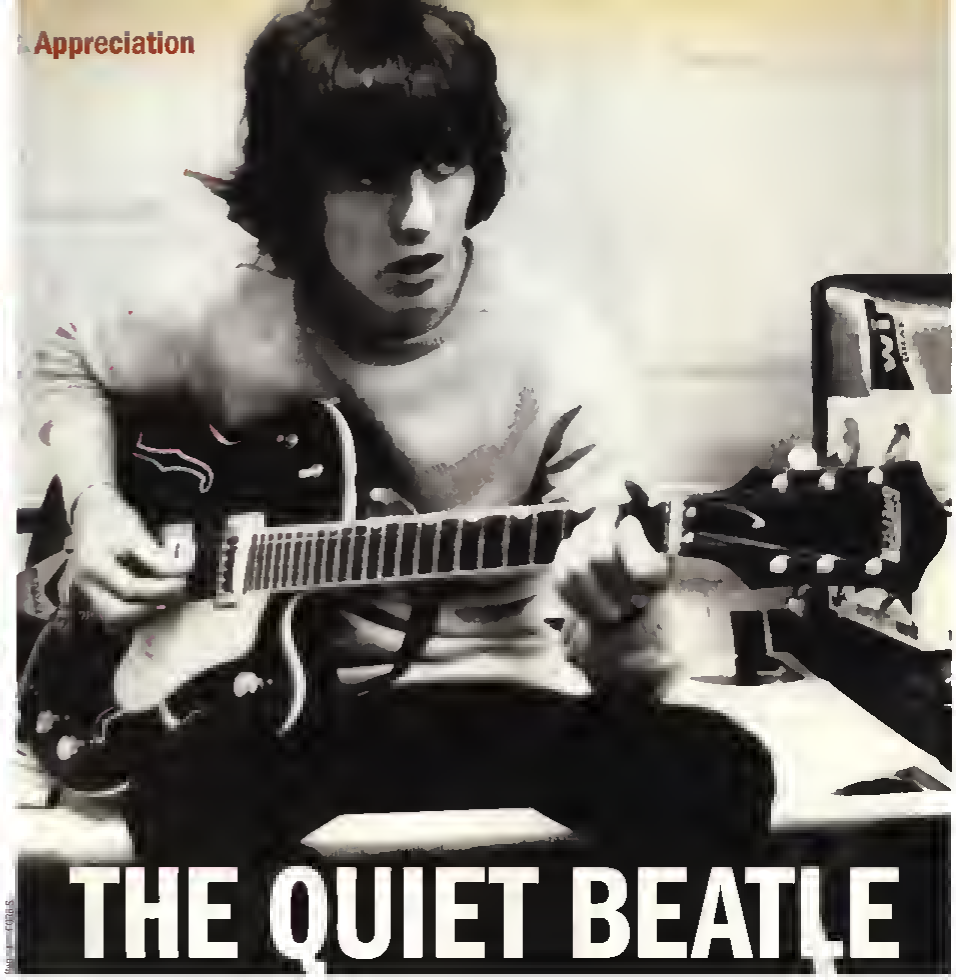
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CORBIS

THE QUIET BEATLE

George Harrison, who swept to global fame in the 1960s as the Beatles' lead guitarist and left his mark on the pop-music scene over the next three decades, died last week in Los Angeles after a battle with lung and brain cancer. He was 58. ***Allan R. Gregg****, pollster, commentator and longtime participant in the Canadian music business, offers his appreciation.*

George grew before our eyes into a musician of enormous influence



CORBIS

The school year of 1963-1964 marked a coming-of-age for many of my generation Even though I was only approaching my 12th birthday, two events stand out from that time that forever changed me and shaped popular culture for decades to come The assassination of John F Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, ended our postwar innocence and alerted us to the enormous potential for evil in the world around us. The brutal shortening of the life of a president who embodied the promise of infinite possibilities awoke a generation to the conflicting impulses of hope and despair—characteristics that we carry to this day

The second influence, taking shape at the same time, was certainly more frivolous in the moment. But over time, the arrival of the Beatles on the pop scene has proven to have no less profound an influence on

the way we viewed the world. I become aware of the Beatles during our regular Friday night, spin-the-bottle sessions in Joan Shirley's rec room in my native Edmonton. Someone's parents had brought an album back from England. By the time they appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* on Feb. 9, 1964, every person I knew was plunked squarely in front of their black-and-white television sets, ready to soak up all the details we would need to talk incessantly about the event the next day.

Britannia Junior High was atwitter with talk and demonstrations of undying loyalty to our newfound heroes. Soon, I was wearing paisley Carnaby Street shirts with impossibly long collars buttoned rightly to the throat, and careening around the halls in Beatle Boots with two-inch heels. The girls especially were smitten with individual members of the band. Their most pressing of all questions: "Which one do you love most?" They adorned lunch boxes and binders with pictures and hand-scrawled initials to show their devotion to a particular Beatle.

Paul, definitely the cute one, found his face and initials plastered on the most lunch boxes. John, as the leader and rebel (and the only married Beatle), drew the male half of our species disptoportionately. Ringo, with his foppish hair and thick Liverpudlian accent, represented the exotic appeal and the cheek of the band. This made him everyone's second favourite, if not first. And then there was George, "the quiet Beatle," who was, well, clearly on the fewest lunch boxes.

The youngest Beatle wasn't front and centre like John and Paul. When the Beatles burst on the scene, there were few clues that the gangly teenager dwarfed behind the ridiculously large Gretsch Country Gentleman guitar would ever be more than a mere sideman and foil for his more charismatic and extroverted bandmates. He often seemed in awe of the fully developed talents of Lennon and McCartney. He could take very little credit for the gorgeous melodies we were humming. Except for the odd harmony bit, he didn't sing the words to the songs we would memorize and repeat. He never took the lead in the interviews we watched or seemed to possess the wit or sense of fun of Ringo or John.

As our devotion to the band deepened and it grew musically and moved beyond cartoon caricatures into more complete





Hulton Archive/Getty Images

In 1964, the Beatles took North America by storm as they appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*; a month later, George joked with false eyes at Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London as its artists created models of the Fab Four (left); in 1966, he was on honeymoon in Barbados with Patti Boyd (bottom left); vacationing with his second wife, Olivia, in Ireland last year

personalities, George became progressively more intriguing and appealing. The 1966 album *Revolver* had three Harrison compositions, including *Taxman*, the lament of the newly wealthy performers. From a rather slow and unimpressive start, George developed before our eyes into the artist who wrote the classics *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, *Here Comes the Sun* and *Something*.

The Beatles' true importance as a musical force became clear when they crossed the threshold from exquisite craftsmen of pop songs into pioneers of experimentation and musical risk taking. By 1967, when the Beatles released their groundbreaking album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, it was clear that "the Georges"—Harrison and producer George Martin—were responsible for much of the technical flourish that generated such breathtaking tracks as *A Day in the Life*. The most hip—those who could actually play instruments themselves or were putting their toes into the evolving counterculture, rather than merely reading about it—knew this, and their estimation of George went up.

In their next phase, the Beatles moved beyond mere pop stars to genuine lifestyle icons. It was George who seemed to push the other three to explore Eastern religions and to go to the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram. He was able to articulate a philosophy that music was but one part of a larger spiritual quest for meaning. For most, this was our first exposure to a way of thinking that went beyond the Judeo-Christian tradition and opened our minds to the explosion of New Age alternativism that has





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marked the past two decades.

As the Fab Four became more hirsute, their clothes more outlandish and flamboyant, and they embraced LSD and marijuana—forcing the drug culture openly upon horrified parents—George began to emerge as the cool Beatle. His facial hair adapted naturally to his feline features; his laid-back attitude best represented the hippie culture credo "tune in, turn on, drop out", and his taste for mysticism and Eastern culture coincided most closely with the late '60s rejection of Western materialism.

As a musician and guitar player, Harrison never displayed the pyrotechnics of a Hendrix or the overpowering proficiency of a Clapton. His trademark was texture, atmospherics and dynamic counterpoint. Perhaps because he could not play with great technical flourish, or maybe by design, he viewed his role as an integrated part—rather than a separate layer—of the music that he made. Today, the post-punk rock of Green Day or Blink 182 pays homage to Harrison, over Hendrix or Clapton, by sharing his sensibility for dynamics and emotion over virtuosity.

For all his influence on the musical landscape, however, Harrison's greatest and most lasting impact is rooted in his use of his platform as a Beatle to draw our attention to a larger world—one we might not have known or thought important, but he most surely did.

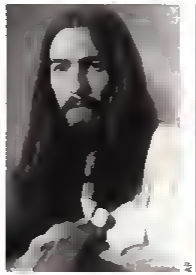
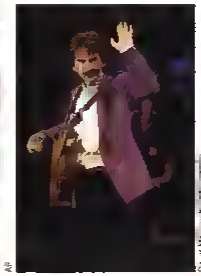
He embraced the Indian sitar player Ravi Shankar and introduced him to the Western world. Except for the most initiated, this was our first real exposure to "world" music—a genre that has since found champions in Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel, David Byrne and other rock pioneers. This exposure, in turn, has given us a much richer tapestry of music and, over time, altered our views of those who make it. Harrison used his celebrity to break down boundaries and make Shankar a star in his own right. Not only did we listen to his music and wear Eastern clothing, but in the process it became nearly impossible to succumb to commonplace racist influences when we had posters of an Indian sitar player on our walls.

Rather than preach to us about the world's failings (as Lennon tended to do), Harrison got involved. By staging the Concert for Bangladesh in New York City in 1971, he forced us to look beyond our counterculture myopia to the plight of the Third World. This event—predating Band Aid, Live Aid, Farm Aid and the other big benefit concerts—was the first time big-name musicians donated their talents to focus attention on a cause. It was Harrison who trailblazed the notion that music can be used to raise not only public consciousness but also vast sums of money for those in need.

Even his late-'80s career romp with Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne as the Traveling Wilburys sent a larger message. On the surface, this makeshift union seemed like any over-the-hill supergroup attempting to cash in on retro-nostalgia. But then there was that lack of pretension, the decidedly adult tone in the music and the tongue-in-cheek approach to the entire effort. It all seemed designed to tell a generation who grew up on the notion that you couldn't trust anyone over 30 that people could, in fact, still be relevant and vital past middle age.

The low point in Harrison's career had to be his conviction for plagiarizing the Chiffons' 1963 hit *He's So Fine* in writing his 1971 song *My Sweet Lord*. His reputation suffered a blow that dogged him until the end of his days. Against his larger body of musical and good works, however, we should give him the benefit of the doubt and consider this small beer.

Harrison went about his life as a Beatle, a celebrity and a social conscience in the quietest way anyone could, yet still be all those things. Unlike so many others who find themselves in a similar situation, he seemed to understand and accept that his fortune was a gift that came with responsibilities, and not a right accompanied by uncritical applause. He went about his life satisfied with his own place but never with the plight of the world. I doubt history will document him as the most talented Beatle. But it may well record him as the Beatle who used his talent to make the biggest difference. pp

Mike Segar/Reuters

The spotlight followed the unassuming Harrison over four decades, with fellow Beatles and their wives at the Maharishi's ashram in India in 1968 (top); at his most hirsute in 1972 (right); and performing in New York City in 1992 (centre). In New York's Central Park, fans left items in tribute to George after his death last week.

Pretty as a picture

Nothing signals the season of indulgence like sumptuous gift volumes

As the days get shorter and the world seems to turn from colour to black and white, big, bright gift books are just the antidote. This year's crop, which also includes the newly published Maclean's People: A Gallery of Canadian Greats *(Penguin), is as pleasure-filled as ever. Some of the best, selected by* Maclean's *writers and editors:*

It is startling to realize that Canada, a newcomer among the world's nations, is physically raw as well. As photographer J. A. Kraulis points out in his introduction to **The Canadian Landscape** (Firefly, $37.95), there are cave paintings in Europe older than P.E.I. The entire country was covered in ice only 18,000 years ago, and emerged in all its enormous variation in the blink of a geologic eye. Kraulis's 150 portraits would be stunning in any event, infused with the photographer's sense of onrushing time, they're magical.



No artist has conveyed the fecund beauty of the West Coast as majestically, and memorably, as Emily Carr did. Renowned Saskatchewan photographer Courtney Milne has produced an exquisite companion to her work with **Emily Carr Country** (McClelland & Stewart, $60). Electric-green moss, sunset-red cedar bark—Milne's palette is as extraordinary as Carr's. Many of the images are abstract, and all are breathtaking. Tom Thomson is another artist who channelled a love of nature into rhapsodic paintings. The fourth edition of **Tom Thomson: The Silence and the Storm** (Firefly, $60) explodes with the artist's boldly coloured works—there are 177 reproductions. The book also includes essays by David P. Silcox and the late Harold Town.

David Blackwood: Master Printmaker (Douglas & McIntyre, $65) is an enchanting collection of 141 etchings that captures the essence of life in a Newfoundland outport. The renowned artist's love for his childhood home colours these harsh, dramatic scenes of the Rock and its fishermen, icebergs, boats and whales with an ethereal warmth. A poetic text by William Gough, who grew up with Blackwood, and an appreciation by novelist Annie Proulx round out Blackwood's beautiful, often heartbreaking, vision.



It's an idea that shouldn't work—it seems much too contrived—and yet does, beautifully. **Van Gogh's Table at the Auberge Ravoux. Recipes from the Artist's Last Home and Paintings of Café Life** (Thomas Allen, $55) is exquisitely designed and boasts some serious content apart from the recipes: co-authors Alexandra Leaf and Fred Leeman are a culinary and art historian respectively, and they thoughtfully explore van Gogh's complicated relationship with food and the social whirl of dining establishments. Like van Gogh, Matisse loved to use other people, and himself, as subjects. **Matisse Portraits** (Yale, $95.95) is a beautiful, compelling look at the artist's depictions of people, rich with 200 illustrations and a provocative text by Matisse scholar John Klein.

Few places before or since rival Renaissance Florence for its outburst of artistic genius. That creative critical mass is the subject of **Painting in Renaissance Florence 1500-1550** (Yale, $82.95), a sumptuous volume touching on Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Piero di Cosimo and nine others. Author David Franklin, deputy director and chief curator at Ottawa's National Gallery of Canada, challenges prevailing assumptions about Florentine painting, looking at the diverse and conflicting influences that jostled the scene.

Although it often seems as if the rest of the world is only a phone call or TV image away, several books remind us of still-remote regions. The biggest is the boxed book and CD-ROM set **The Complete Encyclopedia: Antarctica and the Arctic** (Firefly, $69.95), by New Zealanders David McGonigal and Dr. Lynn Woodworth, with a foreword by Sir Edmund Hillary. It answers, at first glance, every question you might think to ask about the earth's frozen extremes. In **First Crossing: Alexander Mackenzie, His Expedition Across North America, and the Opening of the Continent** (Douglas & McIntyre, $50), B.C.-based historian Derek Hayes tracks the travels of the Scotsman who, in 1793, became the first person to cross North America north of Mexico. **South with Endurance: Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917** (Distican, $76), showcases the work of the expedition's photographer, Frank Hurley. The book includes previously unseen images of the trip, which ended with Shackleton's dash for help after his ship was crushed by ice.



Australia: The Complete Encyclopedia (Firefly, $69.95) is a fitting tribute to the island continent's centennial year. Well-illustrated and accompanied by a CD-ROM, the book covers Oz from its geological beginnings through the history of its native-white relations—depressingly similar to Canada's—to modern times. All the odd animals that so entrance foreigners are there. And for a deeper understanding of Australia's sports obsession—it's one of only three countries to have sent a team to every Summer Olympics—there's a lengthy entry on the place of games in the national psyche.


Robert Capa © Cornell Capa

The *Falling Soldier*, a Capa masterpiece

Behind every patch of earth, sea and sky can be found a woman explorer—or so suggests **Women of Discovery** (Random House, $60). Authors Milbry Polk and Mary Tiegreen chronicle the lives of 84 adventuresses, from 17th-century Spanish soldier Catalina de Erauso, who disguised herself as a man in order to travel to South America, to U.S. polar mapper Louise Arner Boyd, who powdered her nose before going on deck, "no matter how rough the sea."

Robert Capa was only 41 when he was killed by a landmine in Vietnam in 1954, but by that time he had already been hailed as one of the greatest war photographers of the century. It's a reputation spectacularly borne out by **Robert Capa: The Definitive Collection** (Phaidon, $99.95). From house-to-house fighting in the Spanish Civil War to the beaches of Normandy, Capa was where the action was until his luck ran out. The combat shots are balanced by portraits of civilians among the ruins and of Capa's famous friends (Picasso) and lovers (Ingrid Bergman).


YOUSUF KARSH

If every picture really does tell a story, then no one has more—or more interesting—stories than Yousuf Karsh, the longtime Ottawa-based photographic legend who now lives in Boston. A superb new collection of his photographs, **Yousuf Karsh, Heroes of Light and Shadow** (Stoddart, $95), edited by Dieter Vorsteher and Janet Yates, showcases the extraordinary range and power of his work, including famous portraits of Winston Churchill, Nikita Khrushchev and John F. Kennedy, as well as other special assignments, including a series on Canadian cities that Karsh did for *Maclean's* in 1952.

When humanity burst out of its African homeland 100,000 years ago, it triggered an age of extinction not seen since the passing of the dinosaurs 65 million years before. **A Gap in Nature** (Publishers Group West, $56.50), with text by Australian ecologist Tim Flannery and exquisite colour drawings by Peter Schouten, recaptures those creatures lost—from dodos to passenger pigeons—in the past four centuries alone.

Animal (General, $79.95) is an equally loving compendium of what remains today. More than 3,000 photos and details on 2,000 species—including habitat, life cycle and behaviour—make the 624-page text both a thing of beauty and a first-rate reference work. Also stunning is **National Geographic: The Wildlife Photographs** (Distican, $74), a collection of 175 images, many dramatic and astonishing, from the pages of the magazine.



An American food writer who's been living in France for more than two decades, Patricia Wells really knows *la cuisine française*. While **The Paris Cookbook** (HarperCollins, $44.95) may not be the flashiest offering for gourmets out this season—the photos are in black and white, and the design is one of understated elegance—it is still one of the best. Wells takes readers to the important sites of French food



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One of *The Canadian Landscape*'s more eerie sights—low tide in the Minas Basin

—from acclaimed, unaffordable restaurants to humble markets—writing with affection about the city's movable feast.

Not only is he playful, energetic and awfully cute, but British food-TV star Jamie Oliver really knows and loves food. And he can cook. **The Naked Chef Takes Off** (Fenn, $49.95) is another selection of unintimidating recipes from Oliver's school of bold-strokes cuisine. His cooking-should-be-fun attitude translates into irreverent chapter headings like "potty about herbs."

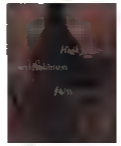


Another splendid choice for lovers of French food is **Jacques Pépin Celebrates** (Knopf, $60), a compendium of favourite recipes for company from the renowned French-born chef, now living in the U.S. and a pillar of American haute food culture. Filled with photos that either delight or instruct, the book ranges from the simple (fines-herbes omelet) to the gloriously complicated (cassoulet with pumpkin-seed sausage).

Like Pépin, Vancouver-based Rob Feenie hosts a TV food show. **Rob Feenie Cooks at Lumière** (Douglas & McIntyre, $50) draws on the chef's menus at his famed restaurant. Organized seasonally, the book is filled with swoon-inducing photos and equally titillating recipes. More down-to-earth is **The Complete Canadian Living Cookbook** (Random House, $49.95), which brings together 350 recipes from the pages of the popular magazine. A good, all-round cookbook with a user-friendly design, it reflects the country's many-faceted personality, with recipes for chipotle mojo chicken, steamed lemongrass mussels as well as pasta e fagioli.



Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson are among the world's top writers on wine. So the new fifth edition of **The World Atlas of Wine** (McArthur, $75), assembled by the two of them, packs a double authorial wallop. With its stunning photos and fine graphics, its impressive breadth and its knowledge-packed, readable text, this is *the* book for wine aficionados.



Patrick Lima's love of plants and familiarity with unusual species have animated several books, including *The Art of Perennial Gardening*. Now, with **Herbs: The Complete Gardener's Guide** (Firefly, $35, $24.95 paper), he engagingly rummages through salad herbs and herbs for scent, herbs for tea and herbs for medicine. With photos and illustrations by Turid Forsyth, the book is like a colourful, calming stroll through the realm of summer.

Another book for plant-lovers, **Flora: An Illustrated History of the Garden Flower** (Firefly, $75), is unique and spectacular. The book details the histories of now-common garden flowers, each illustrated by a graphic—many by famous





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Books

botanical artists—from the archives of London's Royal Horticultural Society. A fascinating, gorgeous volume.

An original idea, and spectacular results—**Earth from Above. 365 Days** (Manda, $95) won't spend a lot of time resting on its coffee-table perch. Photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand has taken an amazing variety of aerial photographs, everything from the windows of a poor Brazilian apartment block in São Paolo to an abandoned town near Chernobyl to a tract of scarily uniform houses near Miami.

Reversing the view, two enticing offerings peer deep into the heavens. Dozens of stunning illustrations and photographs will keep readers thumbing through **Space Odyssey: Voyaging Through the Cosmos** (Distican, $61), U.S. journalist William Harwood's accessible telling of the quest to explore our universe. In **The Great Atlas of the Stars** (Firefly, $49.95), French author Serge Brunier and Japanese photographer Akira Fuji use transparencies on top of gorgeous telescopic images to help even the least experienced of stargazers recognize 30 major constellations.

This season there are two appealing books on human diversity. Canadian ethnobotanist Wade Davis, currently explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society, has assembled his vibrant photos of traditional peoples in **Light at the Edge of the World** (Douglas & McIntyre, $45). The National Geographic book **Peoples of the World** (Distican, $61), which includes an afterword by Davis, is a compellingly illustrated encyclopedia of more than 150 ethnic groups. Both are feasts for the eyes and the mind.



For those interested in architecture and design, there are three standouts this season. **The House Book** (Phaidon, $69.95) devotes a page each to 500 diverse dwellings around the world—contemporary and historic, designed and traditional—with text describing their history and construction. **World Design: The Best in Classic and Contemporary Furniture, Fashion, Graphics and More** (Raincoast, $64) is a vibrant encyclopedia of 20th-century designers. And then there's **Design in Canada: Fifty Years from Teakettles to Task Chairs** (Knopf Canada, $75) by Canadian Design Exchange curator Rachel Gotlieb and writer-collector Cora Golden. The book traces the evolution of modernist design in this country from the European-influenced creations following the Second World War to the emergence of homegrown designers with international reach.

No other ancient civilization fascinates moderns like Egypt does. In **Egypt of the Pharaohs** (Distican, $53.50), *National Geographic*'s trademark photographs effectively juxtapose ancient artworks with contemporary life along the Nile. Combined with archeologist Brian Fagan's brisk history of the land of pyramids, Sphinx and mummies, the result is one of the best single-volume portrayals of Egypt available. Fagan's account of the scholars and rogues who have laid bare its mysteries is just as entertaining.



Tools: A Complete Illustrated Encyclopedia (Distican, $61) is the ultimate tool catalogue. The section on hand planes alone—stuffed with nifty tips and the fine distinctions between European, North American and Japanese (pull) planes—is as lovingly photographed as *Gourmet* magazine. You can almost smell the cedar shavings. The book, by the Garrett Wade Co. of New York City, a purveyor of fine woodworking tools, is not so much an encyclopedia as a paean to the time-honoured instruments of marking, cutting and assembly. But as company founder Garretson Chinn notes, "Good tools are simply inspirational."



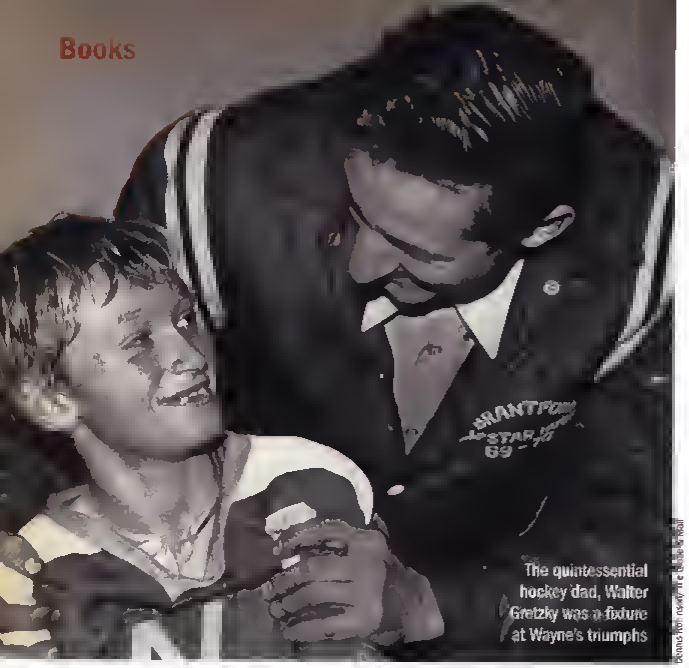


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The quintessential hockey dad, Walter Gretzky was a fixture at Wayne's triumphs

Dennis Hoh noseWhere Studio, Brantford

Armchair hockey

New volumes pay tribute to the national game

BY BRIAN BETHUNE

It's starting to look a lot like Christmas—the annual avalanche of hockey books has arrived. As wide-ranging as ever, this year's tomes on Canada's game include Walter Gretzky's touching account of loss and recovery, tributes to past and present stars, and an homage to the hockey stick. Some highlights

Walter Gretzky was so ubiquitous a presence at his son Wayne's moments of greatest hockey triumph that it comes as a shock to learn that he can no longer remember them. In **Walter Gretzky: On Family, Hockey and Healing** (Random House, $34.95), the Great One's father writes with affecting simplicity about the 1991 stroke that almost killed him at age 53, the torturous road back to health and the permanent loss to his memory of the 1980s—the decade Wayne won four Stanley Cups and rewrote the NHL's record book. By his own account, Walter was the quintessential hockey dad, who missed the birth of his fifth and final child to attend one of Wayne's tournaments. (When he finally arrived at his wife Phyllis's hospital bed, his first words were, "We won, we won!" Her reply? "It's a boy, Walter.")

But as the title to his book indicates, there was another, family-first, side to Walter, who credits Phyllis and his children with his recovery. Whatever may have happened to his memory, Walter came out of his stroke with his humour and cheerfulness—seen in an unending series of hockey anecdotes—very much intact. His sincerity is palpable when he writes of his determination to help others or declares himself "a lucky man," privileged to have a second chance. After all, while Walter cannot recall any of the 1981-1982 season when Wayne scored an unheard-of 92 goals, he still remembers his two-year-old prodigy skating on the family's legendary backyard rink—no mean trade-off.

And like millions of other older Canadians, Walter Gretzky can still revel in the glories of the six-team NHL. **Cold War: A Decade of Hockey's Greatest Rivalry 1959-1969** (HarperCollins, $39.95) focuses on a period when Montreal won five of 10 championships and Toronto four. Mike Leonetti provides an exciting account of the battles between Canada's two teams, but the real highlight is Harold Barkley's photos. Made with stop-time strobe lighting, his shots capture the sport before helmets, masks and expansion, providing startlingly clear images of future Hall of Famers.

Bobby Hull was on the Chicago Blackhawks team that took the Cup in 1961. In a tumultuous 23-year pro career, marked by achievement on the ice and turmoil off it (including a very messy divorce), Hull never won another. But the Golden Jet—muscular, handsome and in possession of one of the greatest shots ever—still had an impact on the game larger than most. **Remembering the Golden Jet** (Stoddart, $24.95) brings to life Hull's two revolutionary accomplishments. First he changed the way the game was played with his warped stick and 120-mph slapshot. Then, to even greater effect, Hull altered hockey's economic structure with his 1972 jump to the upstart World Hockey Association, which sparked an escalation in player salaries that's ongoing.

Broadcaster Dick Irvin may not have been on any championship teams, but he was often in the rink when the Cup was hoisted in victory. In **My 26 Stanley Cups** (McClelland & Stewart, $34.99), Irvin writes about them all, from his first in 1940, a New York Rangers' triumph. The luckiest eight-year-old in Maple Leaf Gardens, Irvin—son of the Leafs' coach—watched that game from just behind the players' bench. (Perhaps he put a curse on the Rangers—it wasn't until his last Cup, in 1994, that New York won again.) In between those dates Irvin, who coveted more than 2,500 NHL games for TV and radio, saw an awful lot of hockey, and he describes it with verve and an insider's knowledge.

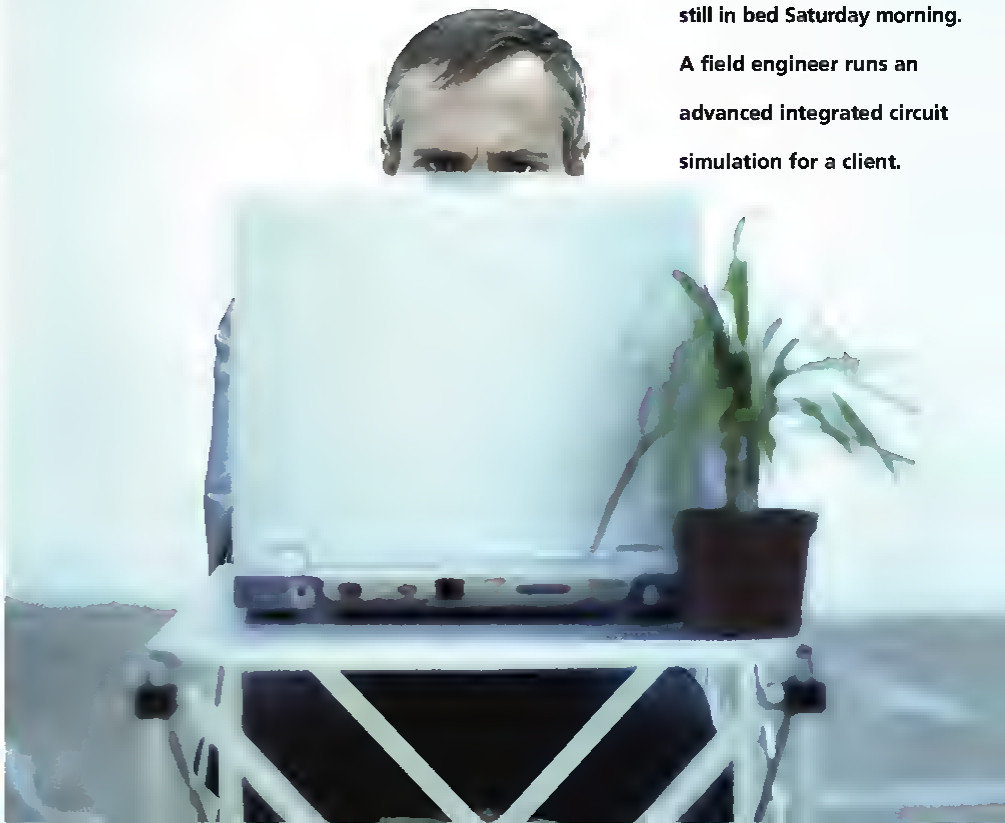
Tom Gaston hasn't been so lucky. He began attending Maple Leaf games in 1930, only three years after the team's founding. The next year, as he relates in **A Fan for All Seasons** (Fenn, $21.95), his entertaining fan's-eye view of one of

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

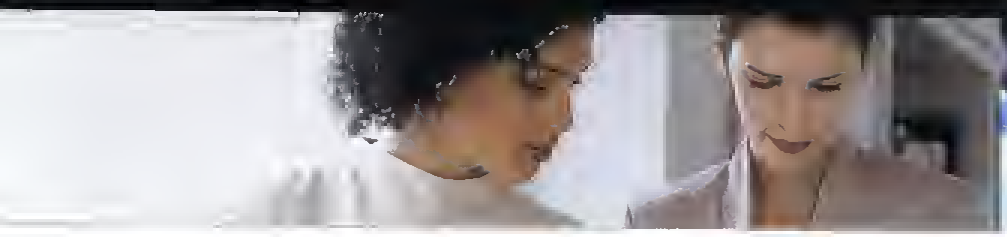
one2one

Communications is at the core of all business activity. 3Com makes networking and communications simple — Radically Simple

A health-care professional dispenses nutritional advice to a patient taking weight-loss medication. A business traveler e-mails head office the results of her business lunch from the hotel restaurant. A high-end tax lawyer ploughs through files while still in bed Saturday morning. A field engineer runs an advanced integrated circuit simulation for a client.



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one2one

What do these situations have in common?

They all involve *communications* — company-to-customer, company-to-supplier, co-worker to co-worker

They are Canadian companies making creative use of networking technology

And they aren't just large enterprises with big IT budgets They're small and medium enterprises (SMEs) Some have a few employees some have a few hundred, but all operating with limited communications and networking resources

And they're all based on networking equipment from 3Com

When it comes to networking, SMEs have different needs from large enterprises, says Nick Tidd, country manager for 3Com Canada. "Their support needs are different," he says. "We must ensure the product works right out of the box that it's not complex."

Communications drives all business activity — sales marketing manufacturing and customer support Networking technology drives all communications But it has been notoriously complex causing business headaches

How does a networking company alleviate that complexity?

Three ways Tidd says

"Intuitive graphical interfaces." Tidd says "And by not assuming users are familiar with networking jargon We write our manuals in plain English, and we adapt to the customer If a customer doesn't need corporate tools, we don't put them in that product"

3Com calls it Radical Simplicity

When call-center agents at G&S Health Communications Inc see a patient record on their workstations whenever that patient calls — that's Radical Simplicity

When guests at the Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel get high-speed Internet access anywhere on the property — that's Radical Simplicity

When Tundra Semiconductor can extend its network to offsite employees without endangering intellectual asset security

That's Radical Simplicity

Always Accessible: 3Com's Voice Solutions

G&S Health Communications provides contract call-centre services to the pharmaceutical industry It's contracted to the manufacturer of a prescribed weight-loss medication Patients call in for advice on wellness, lifestyle and nutrition Half of G&S's 35 agents hold masters degrees or higher in health-related disciplines

The Burlington, Ont. company operates on a 3Com NBX networked telephony system Calls come into the NBX from the public phone system The NBX switch turns the voice signals into digital data Voice-prioritization features remove the delays and echoes that ruin voice quality

Anglophone patient calls are directed to Burlington's local-area network (LAN) Francophone patients are sent over the internet to agents in G&S's Montreal office

Each agent has a 3Com handset It turns the digital data back to voice signals If a patient is new the agent creates a fresh patient record Return callers automatically prompt their patient records to appear on the agent's screen Frequent callers are auto-directed to the most qualified health-care professional available



3Com's Networked Telephony Solutions

3Com's networked telephony solutions allow you to dial calls using your computer, see who's calling on your computer screen check your voicemail through your computer's Inbox, as well as forward messages via email

For agents, it's all automatic "Our focus is making the system user-friendly," says Sandy Schwenger, G&S co-CEO "Our agents are health-care professionals, not computer technicians"

Although G&S owns their NBX and call-centre software, they share their network facilities with another company ecwebworks Inc A 25-employee company, ecwebworks provides Internet-based business-to-business services such as document exchange They worked with G&S to build the customer-relationship management software based on G&S's specifications for patient care management

The ease of NBX reconfiguring is critical, says Marc Bechard manager of network products at ecwebworks Conventional PBX phone systems require technical visits for adding or moving an extension NBX users can make changes via a PC and Web browser software

"It takes three minutes of my time," Bechard says "We currently have high growth and we don't want to call a $250-per visit technician every time we hire someone"

Functionality is equally important Bechard says Features like emergency notification are built-in — not expensive 'options' His company promises 24/7 support Emergency offsite notification forwards after hours voice-mail calls for support to employees' cell or home phones

Telecommuting figures in too Four key employees work from home. They connect to the NBX through broadband Internet connections. Customers can't tell they aren't physically in the office.

Tidd says, "These features help entrepreneurs meet one of their greatest challenges To be accessible to staff and to customers any time any where," he explains 'Availability is a critical part of success.'

Strictly Confidential: 3Com's Data Protection

Accessibility is imperative in our emerging Info Age Economy But, with accessibility comes vulnerability — 'unwanted accessibility' Hacking Eavesdropping Industrial espionage

The flipside of accessibility is security You have to be secure That means using a firewall — some kind of appliance or software that "hides" your network, and the data it contains, from the outside world

For ecwebworks security is a foundation of its business "We have very sensitive client data in our network" Bechard says Employee PCs and digital handsets sit behind a firewall, and communicate with the NBX switch over a Virtual Private Network (VPN)

While communications on VPNs occur over public networks these communications are encrypted A VPN works like a 'protected tunnel' between the points on the network That tunnel ensures communication flows only from end to end

The networking services ecwebworks provides to G&S Health are similarly protected When a G&S call is redirected over the Internet to Montreal a VPN connection protects patient confidentiality, which is an especially crucial consideration for all health communications.

Tundra Semiconductor Corp uses 3Com switches and firewalls throughout its network The Kanata Ont.-based, 200-person company connects field sales and engineering personnel to the corporate network over a VPN for applications like e-mail and data retrieval For example, Engineers can "tunnel" into the corporate network to run simulations that show customers how Tundra switching devices work.

Security is vital for companies like Tundra, says Chris Kramer CEO of Uxilium Solutions Ltd in Stittsville Ont. Tundra outsources its network administration to Uxilium

"All of Tundra's value is in their intellectual property, which resides on their data servers," Kramer says Loss of that property equals a loss of corporate value

Kramer says 3Com firewalls are far easier to configure and manage than competing products With competing products, the process can take hours. Updating 3Com firewall firmware, or applying a software patch, "typically takes under a minute," Kramer says

Sometimes firewall updates must be reversed because of conflicts with other applications, Kramer says It's called "backpedaling" With competing products "it can be the better part of a day If the patch breaks something else When you're talking about a mission-critical application downtime is not a luxury" The process takes a couple of minutes on 3Com firewalls, Kramer says

"Security is one of the most critical areas in networking and it will be a business concern for decades to come," Tidd comments "We have invested in many ways to safeguard our customers' data — dynamic keys, firewall and log in procedures Out of the box, our products will be secure without a lot of intervention"

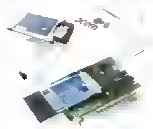
Growth Without Wires: 3Com's Wireless Solutions

Growth is the goal of most small and medium enterprises. But growth carries cost such as expanding the technological infrastructure to accommodate new employees.

Wireless local-area networks (WLANs) reduces that cost WLANs use radio waves rather than dedicated network cabling

When William Johnston LL L /LL B hired a compliance officer for his Ottawa tax-law practice he had a classic problem — no space There was no room for the compliance officer's desk in Johnston's small three-story building

The solution was to add a 3Com Wireless LAN Access Point 6000 to the existing LAN says Legal Assistant Kaila Stratton



3Com's Wireless Solutions

3Com wireless solutions take simplicity and security to a new level Avoid the cost and hassle of cabling especially in older or historical buildings It's the ideal first-time network. Benefits quick and easy network expansion, access e-mail and resources anywhere and bring your network with you if you move

Stratton and the firm's receptionist use desktop PCs connected to the firm's network via conventional network cable But Johnston and the compliance officer now use notebook PCs with 3Com Wireless LAN PC cards The wireless LAN lets the compliance officer access files from anywhere in the building she can find space Before the wireless LAN went in, Johnston's notebook PC used a cable connection He has noticed no difference in network speed.

Wireless LANs can even keep you connected when you're traveling on business Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel offers high-speed Internet access to visitors Because of the building's age and structure, offering high-speed access throughout the hotel via conventional Ethernet cable would have been disruptive and cost-prohibitive The wireless network was completely installed in 10 days It employs 16 3Com Wireless Access Points, which provide high speed internet access from anywhere on the property The independently-owned hotel also has a supply of 3Com Wireless LAN PC Cards It will rent a card to guests for $9 95 per day

"The main users are business travelers" says Judy Harwood hotel executive assistant manager To assure business-level security the network includes a 3Com OfficeConnect Firewall DMZ. "We see people in the restaurant using the service," Harwood says "It's worked wonderfully It's an added amenity that puts us above and beyond everyone in western Canada" The service is also useful for conferences and training in the hotel's banquet rooms "We've had businesses use our catering facilities because of this" Harwood says

"In the fast-paced small-business sector you don't want to keep building infrastructure," Tidd says "Wireless lets you expand without new cable runs"



In the Mainstream: Ethernet Solutions

Most business networks still run over cable

While implementation of these networks gets increasingly easier, it can be a mistake to view the switches and hubs that control traffic on these networks as commodities. The same applies to the network interface cards (NICs) that connect workstations to local-area networks.

I.C.E. Multimedia is a developer of children's educational software. The 100-person company is based in Ste-Adèle, Quebec. Its LAN hooks 90 workstations and three Windows NT servers together, and uses 3Com switches and NICs.

Recently, I.C.E. Multimedia redesigned its network. It put in a 3Com switch in each of its four departments to handle intra-departmental traffic. A master switch, which performs subnet masking for the whole network, handles applications like Internet access and corporate e-mail, directing traffic to the appropriate departmental switch.

Technical Director Robert Coulome says he got lots of help from 3Com in reconfiguring the network. "I've done business with a couple of other companies," Coulome says. "Whenever I need information, 3Com finds the information I'm looking for. With other companies, they're not really concerned about my problems. They just want to get me off the phone."

"We have invested in many ways to safeguard our customers' data — dynamic keys, firewall and log-in procedures. Out of the box, our products will be secure without a lot of intervention."

Karl Rulofs agrees. He's network administrator for the Teal Jones Group in Surrey, BC. Teal Jones operates two companies: Stag Timber, a sawmill and logging operation, and Teal Cedar Products Ltd., which manufactures cedar shakes and shingles. The 500-person company uses 3Com switches and NICs on the 90-workstation LAN at its head office. It also has NBX voice switches in its Surrey administrative office and sawmills, and at its office in Aggasiz, BC.

"You get what you pay for," Rulofs says, contrasting 3Com's networking products to cheap commodity products. "Our LAN is very easy to manage and extremely reliable. 3Com's service and support for both the LAN and NBX have been phenomenal."

Helping companies like ICE Multimedia, Teal Jones and the Saskatoon Travelodge expand their businesses is at the core of 3Com's mission, Tidd says.

"We don't force customers to be technical wizards. We want to allow customers to grow their businesses profitably, in a controlled manner, with a product that's scalable."



3Com's Networking Solutions

SuperStack 3 Baseline 10/100 Switch

From simple ethernet switching to more advanced features and functionality, there's a SuperStack 3 10/100 Switch to satisfy your needs. The SuperStack 3 Baseline 10/100 Switch is perfect for midsize businesses and branch offices. It lets you economically integrate gigabit technology to remove server bottlenecks or extend the network's size.



3Com's Networking Solutions

SuperStack 3 4400 Switch

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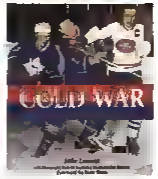
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Books







In Kevin Sylvester's satirical history, Paul Henderson fails to score in 1972, and nothing is ever the same again

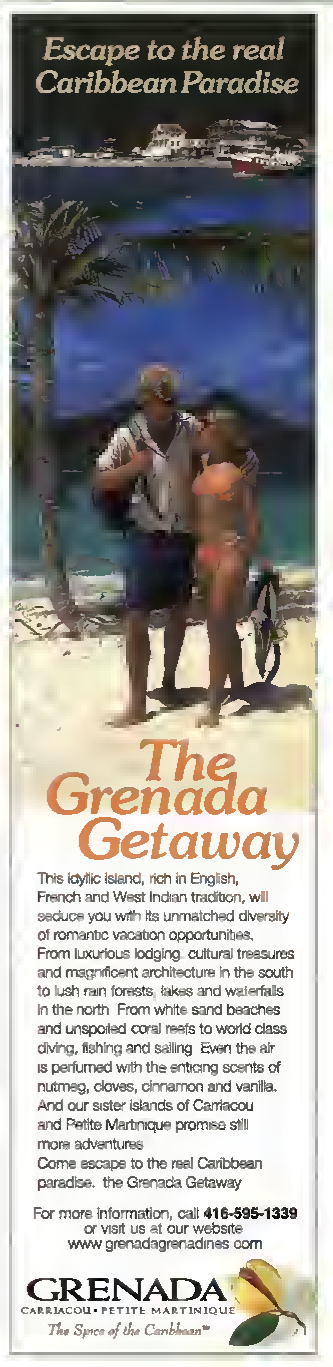
hockey's most storied franchises, Gaston came to the first game ever played at Maple Leaf Gardens. He hasn't missed an opening night since. A witness to all 11 of the team's Cup-winning years, Gaston is full of stories about Leaf luminaries—both great (Punch Imlach) and better forgotten (Harold Ballard). Still hale and hearty at 84, Gaston has patiently waited for Cup No. 12 since 1967. Perhaps having something to look forward to really does keep you going.

If it's championships that are wanted, **Quest for the Cup: A History of the Stanley Cup Finals 1893-2001** (Key Porter, $50) has them *all*. The well-known stories of the Cup's quirky early days—like the 1905 clash between a Yukon team which travelled 6,500 km, partly by dogsled, for the pleasure of being annihilated by the famous Ottawa Silver Seven—are brought alive again by sparkling prose and rare photos. The modern era, covering the Canadiens and Edmonton Oiler dynasties, is commemorated with full-size colour photos, including a wonderful double-page overhead shot of Colorado goalie Patrick Roy surrounded by plastic rats thrown by Florida fans in 1996.

Mario Lemieux won a couple of those Stanley Cups in the early 1990s during his first stint in the NHL, but his sheer natural talent may never have been as obvious as it was last season. That's when he returned to the ice at age 35 after a three-year retirement, to begin what **Mario Lemieux: Over Time** (Fenn, $59.95) calls "the greatest comeback in professional sport." Michael Jordan fans might quibble with that, but Lemieux exceeded all expectations when he scored 33 seconds into his first game back and went on to record 35 goals and 41 assists in only 43 games. It was a return that delighted his Pittsburgh Penguin teammates—also his employees, now that he owns the club—as well as the entire NHL and Wayne Gretzky, who's in charge of picking Canada's next Olympic hockey team. Gretzky named Lemieux Team Canada captain for the Salt Lake City Games in February. *Over Time*, with its striking graphics and action shots, is as handsome as No. 66's stats.

More elegiac takes on hockey are found in Jay Atkinson's **Ice Time** (Random House, $33) and **The Stick** (Macfarlane Walter & Ross, $32.99) by Bruce Dowbiggin. Atkinson, a New Englander who traces his love of the game to his childhood experience of watching Bobby Orr's famous 1970 Cup-winning goal for the Boston Bruins, writes of his return to his old high school team as a volunteer coach. In an intriguing American twist on a traditional Canadian motif, Atkinson depicts a hockey season as a coming-of-age story. Dowbiggin, as skilful a writer as Atkinson, has some entrancing sections in *The Stick*—especially about the superstitions and adaptations individual players bring to the tools of their trade—but he is doomed by his material. The hockey stick may be the ultimate Canadian icon, but it lacks a certain, well, personality.

A similar, but funnier, one-trick pony is Kevin Sylvester's "mockumentary," an illustrated script called **Shadrin Has Scoted for Russia!** (Stoddart, $9.99). In this rewriting of the classic 1972 Summit Series between Canada and the Soviet Union, Paul Henderson, hero of the two previous matches, misses a glorious opportunity to win the decisive Game 8 in its dying seconds. Instead Russia scores, sending Canadian hockey into a tailspin from which it never recovers. Sylvester does have some nice touches. Wayne Gretzky, the nation's top curler, remembers playing hockey as a small child, but after 1972 "my dad tore up the backyard rink and replaced it with a long strip of ice." But the author loses his grip by the end, when Pierre Trudeau seizes dictatorial power over a depressed nation. Still, Sylvester's slender volume contains a core of eternal truth about Canadians—we sure do invest a lot of ourselves in that game. m



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Entertainment Notes

The peaceable kingdom?

Canada's military past is far older than its political nationhood, a point forcibly driven home by C. Stuart Daniel's 80 detailed maps in *The Canadian Military Atlas* (Stoddart, $100) Military historian Mark Zuehlke's text takes the story from Samuel de Champlain's early 17th-century campaigns against the Iroquois to the NATO action in Kosovo While the informative maps are the atlas's strength, many of its more than 50 photos are powerfully evocative, including rare shots of Canadians in action in South Africa a century ago In his concluding sections, Zuehlke moves from Canada's war history to its peacekeeping operations, listing the nation's 73 missions and raising questions—many of them prescient in the light of the Afghanistan conflict—about the military's role in future conflicts



Best-Sellers

		POSITION LAST WEEK
Fiction		
1.	**CLARA CALLAN,** Richard Wright (4)	1
2	**RIVER THIEVES,** Michael Crummey (4)	2
3	**ATONEMENT** Ian McEwan (6)	4
4.	**RATESHIP FRIENDSHIP COURTSHIP LOVESHIP MARRIAGE,** Alice Munro (3)	5
5.	**THE FIERY CROSS,** Diana Gabaldon (3)	6
6.	**THE STONE CARVERS,** Jane Urquhart (34)	7
7	**THE CORRECTIONS,** Jonathan Franzen (12)	3
8.	**SPADEWORK,** Timothy Findley (12)	6
9	**THE ASH GARDEN,** Dennis Bock (14)	8
10	**THE RUSSLANDER,** Sandra Birdsell (6)	10
Nonfiction		
1.	**THE MAP THAT CHANGED THE WORLD,** Simon Winchester (16)	4
2.	**WALTER GRETZKY ON FAMILY HOCKEY, AND HEALING,** Walter Gretzky (2)	1
3.	**CANADA, A PEOPLE'S HISTORY, Vol. 2,** Don Gillmor (3)	8
4	**THE FRIENDLY DICTATORSHIP** Jeffrey Simpson (7)	3
5.	**UNCLE TUNGSTEN,** Oliver Sacks (5)	9
6.	**CHURCHILL: A BIOGRAPHY,** Roy Jenkins (2)	2
7	**MARCHING AS TO WAR,** Pierre Berton (12)	5
8.	**THE UNIVERSE IN A NUTSHELL,** Stephen Hawking (3)	6
9	**THE MOLSONS,** Karen Molson (2)	7
10	**NAPOLEON AND WELLINGTON,** Andrew Roberts (1)	

() Weeks on list

Compiled by Brian Bethune

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Hackman [illegible] commander in [illegible]-of-sport drama [illegible] John in America equals good

Jorgen Vidmer

Lately, there's been a lot of talk about how Canadians really aren't all that different from Americans, especially now that we share a continent of grief. But when you see a blockbuster like *Behind Enemy Lines*, followed in rapid succession by a Canadian film called *Treed Murray*, you begin to wonder. *Behind Enemy Lines* takes place in and around Bosnia, with an arsenal that includes F/A-18 fighter jets, helicopters, tanks and enough small arms to put the Taliban back in business. *Treed Murray* unfolds in a city park. The weapon count: a knife, a revolver and some rocks.

Lumping these two feature debuts together may be unfair, like comparing apples and atom bombs. But each is a thriller about a terrified man surrounded by a ruthless gang. And what's interesting is not just the difference in scale, but in message. The Hollywood movie is about a primal conflict between good and evil—a blood sport in which saving one American life is worth killing a horde of foreigners. *Treed Murray* is about a blood sport that no one wins, and in which good and evil are inextricably mixed.

The press kit for Behind Enemy Lines says the movie takes place "the day after tomorrow," but it feels more like the day before yesterday. Chris (Owen Wilson) is a U.S. Navy top gun who's frustrated because some silly peace negotiations in Bosnia are preventing him from flying into combat. He's itching for war. And he gets his wish when he's shot down during a reconnaissance mission. Chris spends the rest of the movie being hunted by an army of Serbs, and by one especially villainous sniper. Meanwhile, back on the aircraft carrier, his crusty superior, Admiral Reigart (Gene Hackman) vows to rescue him, but is thwarted by a foreign NATO commander who's afraid of upsetting peace negotiations.

It's uncanny how Hollywood formulas fly in formation. The previous week's big release was *Spy Game*, which also depicts war as a kind of father-son rite of passage—another wily veteran tries to rescue a young hothead from foreign soil while his superiors want to sacrifice him on the altar of geopolitics. But *Behind Enemy Lines* is more of a pure action movie. In the opening scene, Chris uses the carrier's catapult to launch a football: this is war as sports. Galloping through a storm of bullets, Chris could be just another blond running back breaking tackles.

After all the grainy video and stock footage from CNN, it's a thrill to watch spectacular scenes of an F/A-18 trying to deke out a surface-to-air missile. Irish filmmaker John Moore, whose TV commercials include an award-winning Sega spot, shoots war as a live-action video game. But the message from the ideological sponsor is deafening. Hollywood studio heads recently agreed to make movies that would support America's war effort. *Behind Enemy Lines* shows they can already do this kind of thing in their sleep.

A very different picture of conflict resolution, Treed Murray is a spare but gripping drama about an ad executive named Murray (David Hewlett) who encounters a 14-year-old mugger in a city park. After taking a swipe at the kid, Murray is chased by a gang until he finally takes refuge in the branches of a large tree. A long standoff begins. And as the five teens lay siege, Murray uses his cunning to divide and conquer, pitting them against each other.

Toronto writer-director William Phillips deftly breaks down stereotypes, showing the executive to be just as amoral as the gang members. And although the drama occasionally slips into melodramatic overdrive, he keeps the tension taut. Hewlett (*Traders*) creates a complex portrait of an ad executive with a taste for prostitutes and crack cocaine. And as Shark, the black gang leader, Clé Bennett conveys a quiet power yet avoids the cliché of the noble savage. *Treed Murray* is an ingenious, al fresco version of the low-budget, high-concept movie about six characters in a room. Despite the outdoor setting, it has the feel of a play, and might work even better onstage: at the movies, we tend to want more visual stimulus than a man in a tree can provide. Unfortunately, the Hollywood war machine asks us to make the ultimate sacrifice—our intelligence. m

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LANDSCAPE REERIES

A painter's northern romantic sensibility was shaped by a Canadian childhood

BY SHARON DOYLE DRIEDGER







Makoto Fujita/ Vancouver Sun

Paintings like *Canoe-Lake* and *Ski Jacket* (left) display Doig's interest in exploring the Group of Seven legacy and playing with the sensation of being outdoors

Canoe-Lake seems quintessentially Canadian. The large canvas has all the mythic elements of the northern wilderness—a lone figure in a canoe drifts across a lake set against an expanse of dark, brooding woods. Even the title hints at Tom Thomson, the revered painter and icon to the Group of Seven, who is believed to have drowned when his canoe overturned in Canoe Lake, Ont., in 1917. But horror-movie fans will recognize another allusion in this deceptively simple work, one of 14 large-scale canvases in a new exhibit that opens at Toronto's Power Plant Gallery on Dec. 8. The painting, by British artist Peter Doig, is based on a scene from the horror blockbuster *Friday the 13th*—the dream sequence near the end of the movie, when the heroine, believing she has escaped the killer, slumps into the canoe and drifts across a lake.

Cheeky, perhaps, for a Scottish-born, Canadian-raised artist to twin a Canuck moment with a tacky Hollywood one. Except that Doig—in his first major exhibit in Canada—may be uncovering a new relevance in the familiar Group of Seven, as well as masters like David Milne and Paterson Ewen. "There is this roster of Canadian greats that excites him," says the National Gallery's curator of contemporary art, Kitty Scott, who organized the Doig exhibit. "Very few contemporary painters are looking at these artists in a close way." In Doig's innovative paintings, Scott sees the same tension and wariness of nature found in the fiction of Margaret Atwood. Doig has attracted considerable acclaim in Europe and the United States for his images of snow, canoes, lakes, forests and isolated houses evoking the Great White North. "A lot of my paintings aren't of Canadian subjects, but somehow they always end up looking Canadian," says Doig, 42. "In Europe, people see it as a northern romantic sensibility."

The Power Plant show is, in a sense, a homecoming. The artist, who lives in London with his wife, Bonnie, and their four daughters, spent his childhood and adolescent years in Quebec and Ontario. His parents moved to Montreal in 1966, when he was 7, then relocated to Foster, Que., before settling in Toronto. Doig first became interested in painting while attending a Toronto high school, and in 1979 he headed to London to study art. It was there that he later encountered the lively, influential Young British Artists, who were determined to reinvent a fading medium. Often called a "hopeless romantic," Doig felt little affinity for the conceptual and photo-based work that constituted cutting-edge Canadian art. In Britain, he felt free to experiment with the legacy of the Group of Seven, dismissed by most serious artists as stale.

In *Figure in Mountain Landscape*, one of the works in the Power Plant show, Doig makes a deliberate connection to the Group of Seven. Its starting point is a photograph of Franklin Carmichael, one of the lesser-known members, shot from behind as he sits outdoors in a large hooded cloak, painting a landscape. In *Figure*, Carmichael is abstracted into a shaman-like entity, almost part of the scenery. Doig's painting may be a homage to the venerable artist, but it also highlights their differences. "His painting is all about being out in nature," says Doig. "I have no interest in doing that." Doig intentionally removed himself from the landscape by painting a picture of an artist painting a picture. His works—abstract yet representational—capture nature from the perspective of an artist at a distance, consciously aware of an history. "I am trying to make it real and make it seem like a memory," says Doig.

Doig sometimes starts off with a borrowed image—a photo, a postcard, a movie still—and then shapes it according to personal memories and recollections of other images. *Ski Jacket*, a dazzling, impressionistic painting of a winter playground that could easily be taken for a hill anywhere in Canada, is based on a newspaper photograph of a Japanese ski resort. While there is a vaguely oriental feel to the shimmering work—which gives the sense of a landscape perceived through a blur of snow—place is less important here than experience. "I wanted to abstract that sensation of being in a landscape in winter when it is cold and you may have coloured goggles on," says Doig. In his signature painterly style, the artist built up the surface of the canvas with splatters and drips in opalescent colours reminiscent of synthetic sklwear.

Back in the '80s, in the heyday of the avant garde, artists would scoff at Doig's frequent allusions to art history. "Critics say that my work is a rehash," says Doig. "But I like that." While many contemporary artists prefer to explore popular culture and technology in emerging media, Doig, described as a "radical traditionalist" by one critic, attempts to incorporate concepts from video, cinema and photography into his paintings. He seems interested in how we sort and remember all kinds of imagery. Take *Canoe-Lake*. While it may appear that the artist is merely recycling a slasher flick moment, Doig seized on the image because of its uncanny similarity to a painting by Edvard Munch. "I wonder if the cinematographer knew that?" asks Doig. "Or if it was something in the common consciousness? I wanted to take it back and turn it into a painting, so there is this circle effect." For Doig, the most alluring direction is back to the future. m



Allan Fotheringham

Dear Bob: 'Get real!'



Being an open letter to Robert Milton, Bossman of Air Canada

Robert, we have met You strike me as highly intelligent, of course, but a little obtuse Not much of a sense of humour—something obviously necessary if one runs a monopoly airline that claims it's going broke despite being a monopoly airline in a small country that, as we know, has too much geography and not enough population

I fly a lot I live on an airplane, the lot of being an ill-paid journalist If I were run over by a bus next week, Air Canada would go bust even faster than it is now headed. I've mentioned this long ago on the back page, Bob—may I call you Bob?—but I don't like getting on a plane where one of your employees (I paid for the ticket) tells me to lower the window shades so someone else can watch a movie

You've got to understand, Bob, that I don't buy an airplane ticket to sit in a movie theatre If I want to watch a dumb movie, full of either simulated sex or actual violence, I'll go to a movie. Why watch it when I'm at 35,000 feet in the ozone layer, over the best scenery in existence? You wouldn't know this, of course, sitting in your executive office trying to figure out why an airline that has a bully monopoly is hemorrhaging and is pleading with Ottawa (meaning me, the taxpayer, the ill-paid journalist) for a bailout

What you don't realize, Bob—is "Bob" OK?—is that I really love flying I have to for family and professional reasons—fly between Vancouver and Toronto—very frequently I love the flight. It's about 4½ hours As you no doubt know. Ever get out of the office, Bob? Any sensible moron would enjoy 4½ hours—more than half a work day—with no interruptions. No stupid phone calls from people you don't want to talk to You've actually got 4½ hours to read. How many times do all of us have, not interrupted, time to read what we actually want to read, and—amazingly!—have time to think?

I don't have to talk to the jerk beside me who, having read the safety rules in the mandatory basket ahead of his seat and then the instructions on how to use the barf bag, wants to talk I put on the earphones, pretend they are operating and point—like a helpless oaf—to them; a wanna-be deaf mute. He goes back to the barf bag Works every time. You wouldn't know this, Bob, being up there in business class (if you actually fly) where—when one of my many employers occasionally puts me there—the grub is now as bad (thanks to your incompetence) as what they serve in the cattle class back in the tight seats where the unwashed sit

Your lady attendants now sit, giggling in the galley, gossiping so loudly rather than serving the weary passengers who can hear them, talking too much about the airline wars The headlines tell us that Canadian Airlines pilots, so upset about internecine seniority rules, are advising their families that it will not be safe to fly while AC/CA pilots punch it up in the cockpit. Sept. 11? Robert, get real

The problem, Bobby—may I become familiar?—is that Canada is the most beautiful (and best) country in the world I know I've been in 89 of them. And while I cross it, do you actually want me to watch Hollywood shoot-em-ups with Arnold Schwarzenegger who—as he did in one movie—killed 18 people? The answer is no I love the Rockies. Which, if you've ever seen the Alps, makes the Alps—you can drive through them in 30 minutes—look like a Hollywood backdrop from MGM

I love the patterned fields of the prairies, like coloured quilts revealing what is wheat, what is barley, what is flax, what used to be called rape before political correctness changed its name I search, each journey, for the tiny town called Hearne, 50 km south of Moose Jaw where I was born And the twits who run the monopoly that is going bankrupt demand that I turn down my window shield so the guy in the next seat, having exhausted the instructions on the barf bag, can watch a dumb movie

I'm sorry, I want to exult, always with a window seat, in the best view one can ever find anywhere—the kaleidoscope of a fine country that goes from a Pacific view looking out to Japan to the Rockies that are snowcapped almost all year to downtown Hearne and the endless lakes to the Canadian Shield Mr. Milton, don't ever, ever, order me to turn down my window on my country

Illustration for Maclean's by Roy Peterson

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